

Daily Blog Greatest Hits

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Gerry's Daily Blog

Featured Coins of the Day

1886 F-105 PCGS MS65 CAC 10C
Cleveland \$1100



1937 PCGS MS66+ CAC 50C
\$900



1830 LM-7 NGC MS64 CAC 5C
\$1385



1843 PCGS EF40 CAC \$1
\$775



1840-(O) WB-4 PCGS VF30 CAC 50C
Saw Mill \$1350



1842-O PCGS F15 CAC 25C
Mountain View \$1150



Gerry's Daily Blog Archives - May 2021

May 31, 2021

Thinning The Herd Collection Capped Bust Half Dimes - Near Sellout

New GFRC Offerings

and

GFRC Table 608 at Summer New Hampshire Coin Expo





No Buyer's Fee + Flexible Reserves

GFRC
ONLINE
AUCTIONS

Integrated Auction & Retail Sales

**GFRC Online Auctions Open
for Summer 2021 Collection Offerings**

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Greetings on the final day of the Memorial Day weekend. June 2021 arrives within hours. Thank-you for stopping by at the Blog.

The Memorial Day weekend has been a cold rainy event throughout New England. Reports from Dan White in Essex CT and Tom Coulombe in Tauton MA echoed the same weather conditions. Today's forecast shows no improvement with another day of rain and cold temperatures.

Thinning The Herd Collection Capped Bust Half Dimes - Near Sellout

Hot is the best way to describe conditions in the GFRC office on Sunday. The day started at 5:00 AM towards assembling a long Daily Blog edition. Email and phone calls arrived as the day brought robust sales. Given the crappy weather, most clients remained indoors and checked the GFRC price list for potential purchases. Those activities translated into a large number of orders to wrap-up the month of May.

Response to the Thinning The Herd Collection sale of eye appeal Capped Bust half dimes has been excellent with a near sellout on the horizon. I'm still waiting for a buy/pass decision from the last individual with FRoRs. Once he responds, only 1-2 offerings will be left.

The Thinning The Herd sale is an example of the strength of the current numismatic market. Quality coins are in demand and will sell quickly if priced competitively.

New GFRC Offerings

The GFRC consignment queue continues to grow. Sunday brought agreements with two customers for moving into consignment relationships. Both individuals will be shipping U.S. gold lots during the coming week.

Sitting in front of me on the GFRC desk are a number of fresh consignments that will see image processing attention today along with additional price list postings. What else is there to do on a wet Memorial Day Monday?

Let's open the new offerings with a superb 1812 \$5 early U.S. gold piece from the Osprey Collection. This example exhibits brilliant frosty luster and greenish-gold coloring. The reverse is also nicely decorated with peripheral orange-gold coloring. CAC approval validates the strict originality. Priced at a fair \$12,500.

New GFRC Offerings - Superb 1812 \$5 U.S. Gold Piece

1812 PCGS AU58 CAC G\$5



Another new GFRC arrival is the following original gray 1873 Liberty Seated dollar for your consideration. This 1873 dated piece was struck early in the year as production of the Liberty Seated dollar ended on March 29, 1873.

The Act of February 12, 1873 (popularly called "the Crime of '73") was a tad controversial as the legislation abolished the two cent piece, the silver three-cent piece, the half dime, and the silver dollar, along with providing for the coinage of the trade dollar. Trivial planchet weight changes were also mandated for circulating silver coinage. This resulted in the placement of arrows on dime, quarters, and halves during the 1873-1874 time frame.

New GFRC Offerings - Original Gray 1873 Seated Dollar

1873 NGC AU53 \$1



GFRC Table 608 at Summer New Hampshire Coin Expo

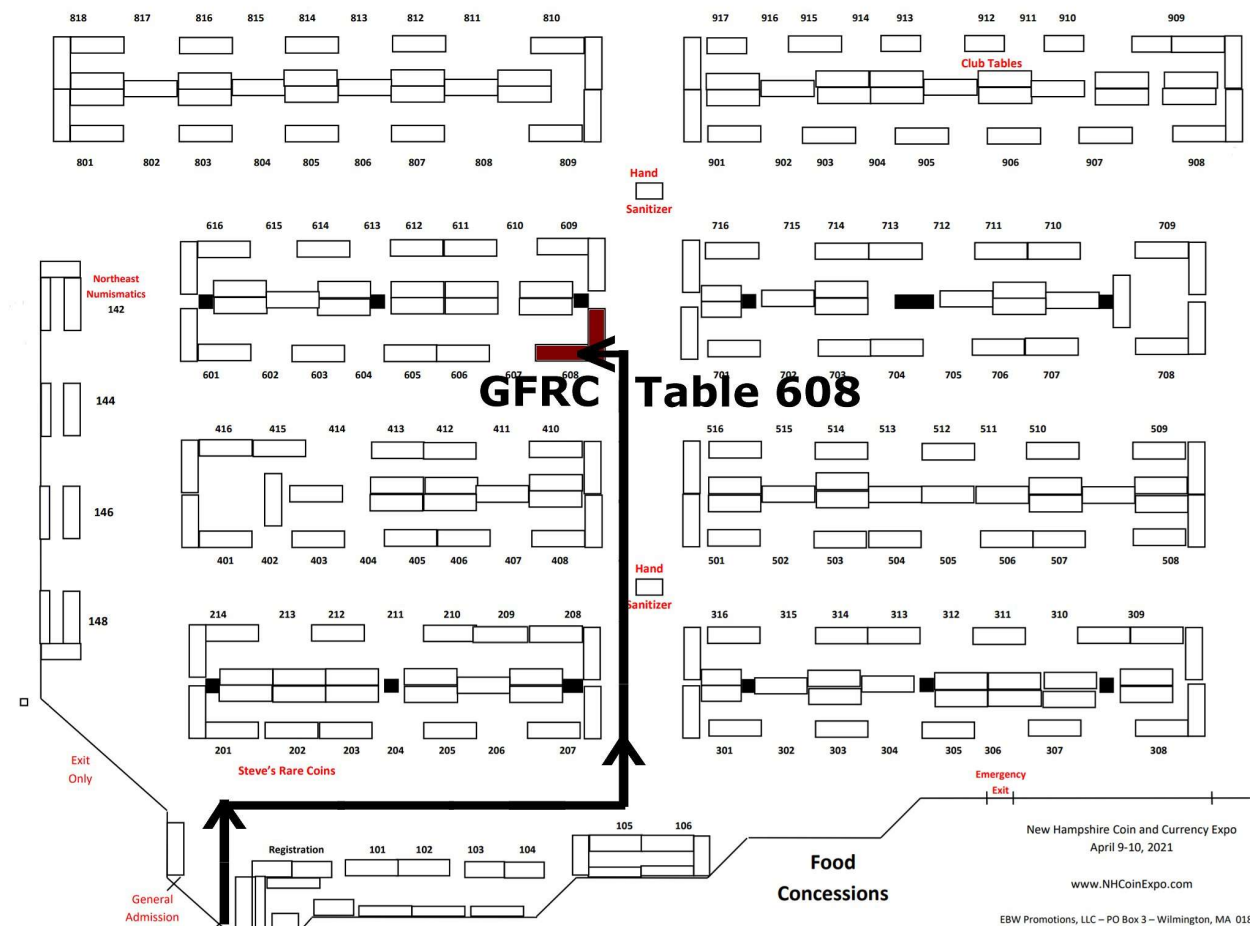
It is official! The GFRCmobile will be heading to Manchester NH on June 24 for the Summer New Hampshire Coin Expo event. Dan White will be joining me from Essex CT for a two day exhibit along with bourse floor buying.

GFRC will be located at corner table 608 with eight cases of inventory and a special display of a magnificent Liberty Seated Type Coin collection to be shortly announced by the GFRC Online Auctions platform. Due to a prior commitment on Saturday, the GFRC exhibit will be terminated on Friday evening.

Feel free to click on the below image to gain access to a higher resolution version.

GFRC Table 608 at Summer New Hampshire Coin Expo

June 24-25 Only



Wrapping Up The Blog

So ends another Daily Blog edition. Thanks for the ongoing visit and monitoring GFRC's latest new offerings.

Please check back this week for a huge GFRC Online Auctions announcement. Two collectors have decided to sell their substantial Liberty Seated holdings via GFRC. The auction events will take place in mid to late July time frame.

Wishing everyone a peaceful Monday before we return to work on Tuesday.

May 30, 2021

Better Date \$3 U.S. Gold from the Osprey Collection

Thinning The Herd Collection Capped Bust Half Dimes - FRoRs Galore and

Responses to The Detectable Subtleties of CAC Approval

Greetings on Memorial Day weekend and welcome to ongoing Blog ramblings. Thank-you for taking holiday time to visit with me.

Yes, it did happen. The wood stove is fired up bringing about a toasty warm homestead. Who would have thought that we would be burning wood in southern Maine during the last days of May? The weather forecast calls for rain through Monday afternoon without a warming trend. Tuesday's high temperature is forecasted at 57F under cloudy skies.

Actually, I'm pleased with the rain and can live with the cool spring temperatures. Mother Nature's lush green colors are preferred over dry brown shades and the risk of wildfires. Recognizing that the weekend would be a washout, I spent four hours on the JD2025R on Saturday afternoon and dug out a substantial tree stump behind the settler's stone wall. Digging a tree stump is ideal eye/hand coordination training for operating the 260B backhoe. Increasing the level of difficulty is the rock bound soil. It is impossible to dig without locating rocks of all sizes including those that are near boulders.

It may be Sunday on a holiday weekend, however I will be in the GFRC office most of the day. My plan is to conduct business throughout the weekend followed by burning the massive brush pile on Tuesday or Wednesday. That pile must be eliminated as there is a comparable amount of brush stacked along the upper trail that will be hauled out and also burned.

Better Date \$3 U.S. Gold from the Osprey Collection

The Osprey Collection is back with a trio of rare early date U.S. gold to spice up the price list. Today's featured offerings are three circulated \$3 Princess gold pieces as shown next.

Unquestionably, the 1865 NGC AU58 offerings is the highlight of today's showcase. Mintage is a tiny 1,140 for this Civil War era rarity. Unlike the later low mintage date of the 1880s, 1865 strikes went into circulation with few choice survivors. This example will be priced in the five figures and should not last long on the price list. Yes, there is already a First Right of Refusal based on verbal mention in a prior Blog edition. Rest assured that there was no Old Boy's Club behind that FRoR.

The 1855-S brings classic green-gold coloring to the gallery. Mintage is only 6,600 and with a comparable survival rate as the 1865 date. The 1856-S \$3 gold piece is worthy of its CAC approval with honey-gold coloring and considerable device details at the certified EF45 grade level.

These new gold offerings should post to the price list on Monday.

Better Date \$3 U.S. Gold from the Osprey Collection

1865 NGC AU58 G\$3



1855-S PCGS EF45 G\$3

1856-S PCGS EF45 CAC G\$3



Thinning The Herd Collection Capped Bust Half Dimes - FRoRs Galore

A huge positive response greeted the fresh Capped Bust half dimes from the Thinning The Herd Collection. As of this morning, 12 of the 16 pieces have received at least one First Right of Refusal. Nine individuals responded to yesterday's client gallery posting. Should we be surprised? Absolutely not!

This fresh Thinning The Herd offerings has been off the market for nearly a decade and constitutes the majority of the consignors remaining duplicates. This individual is building a high end Mint State collection and needs numismatic capital to seize the moment when upgrades appear on the market. Remaining to be photographed and showcased are two Capped Bust dimes (1829 Small 10C/Large 10C ANACS AU50 OWH and 1832 JR-6 NGC MS61) along with twenty raw Capped Bust half dimes in the Fine 12 through EF40 grades, many are R4 through R6 die varieties. The raw pieces have been off the market for over two decades and should be well received once offered by GFRC.

Offer prices have been settled for the PCGS holdered Capped Bust half dimes enabling price list posting starting this morning. The entire 16 pieces should be posted by mid-afternoon along with courtesy emails to those who placed FRoRs.

Responses to The Detectable Subtleties of CAC Approval

Eight Blog readers took the time to inspect the Thinning The Herd CAC vs. non-CAC illustrates and rendered their opinions on why certain Capped Bust half dimes were stickered or not approved. The high quality lot provided an opportunity to sharpen visual evaluation skills since most numismatic purchases are conducted on line. Having to judge why a coin was or was not approved required readers to carefully examine images in search of subtle issues on the non-CAC approved pieces. In my case, I have the coins in front of me in the office and will provide additional insights.

Let's preface the feedback with a clear statement. All the Thinning The Herd Capped Bust half dimes are quality coins. All but two of the coins received Choice or Gem quality ratings. The balance are assigned Original ratings as being conservative for surface conditions.

Let's open the feedback with some concise inputs from the Cleveland Collection. The following observations are well founded and come closest to matching my views. Please note three key points in the brief response; consistent obverse/reverse toning, non-reflective surfaces, and conservative grading.

More consistent toning between obverse and reverse, as opposed to 1830 LM 4.2 for example.

Not reflective, as opposed to 1830 LM-8 or 1831 LM 1.2

Classic light (1835 LM 8.2) or medium gray (1833 LM 3.3) vs other toning such as 1833 LM 4.1 or 1831 LM 1.2

More conservatively graded 1835 LM 8.2 vs. 1833 LM10.

There's close calls. Lucky 1830 LM-14 vs Unlucky 1837 LM-1

The Big Frankie Collection also hit upon the same themes with his brief observations. I fully agree that 1829 LM-7.3 is a borderline CAC piece among the non-CAC group.

Surface consistency appears to be the key, followed by grade.

The non-CAC for the 1829 LM-7.3 is a questionable. Perhaps CAC had an issue with the grade and at EF45 it would have a Green Bean?

The non-CAC for the 1833 LM-4.1 may be due to the black toning areas.

A regular GFRC consignor, who wishes to remain anonymous provided detailed comments for each non-CAC approved piece.

Predication: I do not collect this series; never actively pursued the series; have no examples in my collection.

29 7.1 – Insufficient luster for the grade and splotchy toning indicating excessive dipping.

29 7.3 – Grade issues/low end for the grade/ 'c' coin.

30 4.2 – Same as above.

30 8 – Insufficient luster for the grade.

31 – You'd have to see the coin in hand/I think they think it might be an AU in MS holder. Toning color sequence too abnormal/no lighter pastel colors in sequence.

33 4.1 – Insufficient luster for the grade. Toning very monotone.

33 10 – Would need in hand inspection, but they might think it is an AU in MS holder.

37 – Likely a luster issue for the grade.

We wrap up the inputs with commentary from our own Dan White. He shares an important observation concerning the CAC approved coins as a frame of reference for evaluating the non-CAC approved pieces.

I am going to try the exercise because it is a great teaching moment.

In a broad brush, CAC approved have a consistent color and toning on obverse and reverse on the entire coin. No bright areas or incomplete toning on the coins.

As examples where non CAC examples "fail" see the following:

1. The 1831 LM-1.2 old album bulls eye just shows an unnatural coloring and did not CAC.
2. The 1829 LM-7.3 reverse left eagle's wing is brighter than the remainder of the coin and the elements around the rim are heavy and crusty but not in the fields
3. 1829 LM-7.1 has a definite difference in toning between the obverse and reverse4. 1837 LM-7 has definite color differences, probably from storage in a cabinet, resulting in color differences

Let's summarize several key points made including the fact that I share those observations.

- Toning (color and skin) consistencies between obverse and reverse are paramount for validating strict originality. Beware of any silver coin that has a substantial color difference between obverse and reverse. The exception is edge roll toner Morgans.

- Brilliant luster that is framed by unnatural peripheral toning will not be CAC approved. These are typically cases of a coin being dipped and placed in a high sulfur paper album, or worse, having been artificially retoned.

- Blotchy toning is always questionable with respect to an earlier dip. Look for potential chemical spots due to marginal rinse after the dip.

- Conservative grading is fundamental for CAC approval. A coin can be 100% original with natural skin but will not CAC if over graded. Many collectors don't understand this point when evaluating their coins.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The 8:00 AM publishing time is upon us so best to run the Dreamweaver spell checker and get today's edition uploaded.

Again, I will be in the office most of the day, basement sound room otherwise, and will have the cellphone with me at all times. Please don't be bashful about rendering a Memorial Day weekend purchase or approaching me with a consignment proposal.

I hope that you've enjoyed today's edition. Be well.

May 29, 2021

Tempting Capped Bust Half Dimes from Thinning The Herd Collection and The Detectable Subtleties of CAC Approval

Greetings on a cold and wet southern Maine morning. Thank-you for checking in at the Blog during a holiday weekend. I believe today's edition might be insightful for the community numismatists.

Raymond air temperature is a brisk 44F and will climb to a balmy 49 degrees during the afternoon hours. Similar air temperature conditions will last into Monday. Sadly, outdoor camping might be a bit unpleasant if the core activity during the a Memorial Day weekend vacation in the Maine woods.

Looking on the positive side of the Memorial Day holiday weekend, three days of showers and periods of heavier rain are ideal for rebuilding the water table and nurturing acres of farmland. At the Raymond homestead, the anticipated precipitation will drop the southern Maine wildfire danger levels to low enabling the first brush pile burning of the season. The natural spring will also become active again leading to a clear pool and less mosquitoes.

Tempting Capped Bust Half Dimes from Thinning The Herd Collection

Today's Daily Blog edition is wholly focused on an awesome Capped Bust half dime consignment from the Thinning the Herd Collection. This collector is a die variety specialist for Capped Bust half dimes. The series is short and highly collectible at multiple levels. A date only set spans nine years of issue (1829 through 1837). Major varieties result from the usage of different size date punches along with reverse denomination punch size. For passionate variety collectors, one can collect all die pairings and re-marriages based on the brilliant research by Russ Logan and John McCloskey.

Following is a lovely display of the PCGS holdered pieces within the Thinning the Herd Collection consignment. Processing these images has been an absolute joy as the coins are gorgeous, on average, and encased in unabraded plastic. The amount of photo editing to remove holder anomalies was minimal.

While assembling this client gallery, it became apparent that the consignment's well preserved offerings could be employed for a study of CAC vs. non-CAC approvals. Since this lot has a tight visual quality distribution across a narrow grade range, it might be possible to learn what visual characteristics are deemed above average by John Albanese and staff. Conservative grading is also an imperative which must be acknowledged when reviewing the images.

Let's start today's Thinning the Herd presentation with a display of sixteen nicely toned Capped Bust half dimes. I've showcased the 1831 LM-6 and the 1832 LM-8.4 as headline offerings due to superb coloring and luster. In terms of accumulated First Rights of Refusal, six pieces have at least one request. They are: 1829 LM-3, 1830 LM-2, 1831 LM 1.2, 1831 LM-5, 1832 LM-8.4, and 1835 LM 8.2. I suspect that someone will quickly request a FRoR in the 1831 LM-6 and rightly so.

Tempting Capped Bust Half Dimes from Thinning The Herd Collection

1831 LM-6 PCGS AU55 CAC H10C

1832 LM-8.4 PCGS AU58 CAC H10C



1829 LM-3 PCGS AU53 CAC H10C

1829 LM-7.1 PCGS AU53 H10C

1829 LM-7.3 PCGS AU50



1830 LM-2 PCGS AU58 CAC H10C

1830 LM-4.2 PCGS AU58 H10C

1830 LM-8 PCGS AU50



1830 LM-14 PCGS AU55 CAC H10C

1831 LM-1.2 PCGS MS62+ H10C
CAC H10C

1831 LM-5 PCGS AU58



1833 LM-3.3 PCGS MS61 CAC H10C

1833 LM-4.1 PCGS AU58 H10C
MS62 H10C

1833 LM-10 PCGS



1835 LM-8.2 PCGS AU55 CAC H10C

1837 LM-1 PCGS AU50 H10C



The Detectable Subtleties of CAC Approval

While processing the Thinning the Herd images along with inspecting each piece under bright light, it become apparent as to why those with CAC green beans were approved and those without a sticker were not. The differences can be subtle but notable by a trained eye. Along came the idea to regroup this special display by CAC Approval and those without CAC approval as an educational opportunity for the readership.

Does the lack of a CAC sticker make any of the offerings less desirable? Absolutely not! However, pricing levels could be impacted. CAC approved coins trade, on average, at a premium to non-approved coins.

Please take ten minutes to carefully examine the following two galleries. Your task is to capture the visual subtleties between the two groups as a learning experience. I'm certain that many readers will see differences while for others those differences may be difficult to detect due to inexperience. I've gone back and forth on whether I should share my observations in today's edition.

My decision is to sit back and ask Blog readers to send emails with their observations concerning the subtle differences between the CAC approved and non-CAC approved galleries. I will capture those inputs and publish in Sunday morning's Blog edition. Therefore, please take the time to study and draw personal conclusions along with sharing via email (gerry@seateddimevarieties.com). No text messages please as I'd like to keep the inputs organized in my Hotmail Inbox.

CAC Approved**1829 LM-3 PCGS AU53 CAC H10C****1830 LM-2 PCGS AU58 CAC H10C
CAC H10C****1830 LM-14 PCGS AU55****1831 LM-5 PCGS AU58 CAC H10C****1831 LM-6 PCGS AU55 CAC H10C
CAC H10C****1832 LM-8.4 PCGS AU58****1833 LM-3.3 PCGS MS61 CAC H10C****1835 LM-8.2 PCGS AU55 CAC H10C****Non-CAC Approved****1829 LM-7.1 PCGS AU53 H10C****1829 LM-7.3 PCGS AU50 H10C
H10C****1830 LM-4.2 PCGS AU58**

**1830 LM-8 PCGS AU50 H10C****1831 LM-1.2 PCGS MS62+ H10C****1833 LM-4.1 PCGS AU58****1833 LM-10 PCGS MS62 H10C****1837 LM-1 PCGS AU50 H10C**

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings a full day in the GFRC office as weather conditions are not conducive for outdoor activities.

The entire holdered and raw sections of the Thinning the Herd Collection Capped Bust half dimes will be loaded into the COIN system and priced. Once consignor pricing is settled, I will start posting the holdered coins to the price list.

Friday brought a short period of sunshine sufficient to photograph the newest U.S. gold offerings from the Osprey Collection. My plan is to have those images processed and display in Sunday's Blog edition.

Again, thank-you for stopping by at the Daily Blog

May 28, 2021

Say It Ain't True - Burning the Wood Stove on Memorial Day Weekend

and

Core Liberty Seated Dime Collection Duplicates to Consider

Greetings and welcome to the Blog on a Friday morning. Memorial Day weekend 2021 is upon us! I hope Blog readers are heading outdoors for enjoyable recreation.

Say It Ain't True - Burning the Wood Stove on Memorial Day Weekend?

When reading the opening headline, Daily Blog fans must think I'm exaggerating or gone plain crazy.

Welcome to Maine and the possibilities for a varied weather landscape. The Memorial Day weekend weather forecast calls for a high of 50F on Saturday and climbing to 54F on Sunday. Evenings bring low 40s. The issue is rain on both days with partial clearing on Monday with a heat wave at 61F.

This weather forecast is downright crappy for the Maine tourism industry. However, with high wildfire risks and depleted water tables, the slow soaking rains across several days will be embraced with open arms. The timing is just a bit wrong.

There is the possibility that I will be firing up the wood stove on Sunday morning to take the chill out of the homestead. No worries as there is an ample supply of dried kindling and 16" firewood in the garage.

The Memorial Day weekend forecast also brings zero time on the JD2025R. Instead, the focus will be on processing a host of fresh consignments that arrived during the past four days.

Look for Pending GFRC Online Auctions Announcements

I'm most pleased to report that active discussions are underway concerning two major Liberty Seated coinage auctions during the July time-frame. Those discussions have moved along to the point of deciding on the safest possible shipment approaches given the six figure plus nature of each collection. The combined collections are so substantial that I may fly Len Augsburg to the Maine GFRC office for on-site cataloging and time in the back trails. Yes, we all know that Len wants a ride on the JD2025R....

Feedback on Does GFRC Operate an Old Boys' Network?

The email Inbox was humming on Thursday with feedback concerning the Old Boys' Network topic.

Several *tongue in cheek* emails requested formal membership in the Old Boy's Network. Len Augsburg provided a new assignment for developing an automated want list app. Others commented that the First Right of Refusal process is grounded in fairness. However, the most creative feedback was the following image.



Being serious for a moment, the insinuation that GFRC keeps behind the scene want lists and leverages those for Blog showcasing did not sit well with me. The request to defend myself in the Blog concerning the accusation was out of bounds. At GFRC, we are 100% straight with respect to business and relationships. Those who have asked for phone consultations or in person visits understand my direct nature towards client education and self improvement. Many have thank me for speaking what other dealers will not say to a client.

For the record...

- GFRC does not keep want lists. When selling about 250 coins per month and loading even more to the price list, there is no time to monitor special want lists. Client should check the Daily Blog if they desire first shots at new offerings.

- GFRC does not send out newsletters with new purchases. Again, there is too much volume and too little time to manage an address book and special newsletters.

- GFRC posts new offering galleries at predictable times each day. The most obvious is between 8:00 to 8:30 AM daily as part of the regular Daily Blog upload. Secondly, I might preview the subsequent day's Blog edition with client galleries posted between 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Many times, those galleries are a work in progress.

If wishing to secure first shot, clients should check the Blog link at 5:00 PM, 9:00 PM and the regular 8:00 to 8:30 AM publishing time. That is the secret!

Finally, there must be maturity with respect to gaining the lead First Right of Refusal spot. Those who check the Daily Blog link on a regular basis will have a higher probability than those who are occasional readers. For popular offerings, the difference between being first or second on a coin can be a minute or two! I know this first hand with my own wholesale buying. One time, I missed out on several potential purchases due to going to the bathroom during the arrival of an email announcing new offerings. This is life....

Core Liberty Seated Dime Collection Duplicates to Consider

As promised in Thursday's Blog, following are two duplicate dime offerings from my core Liberty Seated dime collection.

- 1853 Arrows F-119 PCGS MS66 - Purchased way back during July 2007 from Larry Whitlow (now deceased). This example offers brilliant frosty luster, a full strike, and cool obverse rim cud below the date. It took fourteen years to locate the right upgrade. Yes, this piece has been to CAC and did not sticker.

- 1869-S F-102 PCGS MS66 - One of the finest known and the primary CoinFacts plate coin. PCGS population is five while none having been approved at CAC. This is a marvelous gem with frosted luster and swirling cartwheels regardless of the thick patina.

Core Liberty Seated Dime Collection Duplicates to Consider

1853 Arrows F-119 PCGS MS66 10C

1869-S F-102 PCGS MS66 10C



To make today's Blog visit worthwhile, I dipped into the three double row slabbed boxes and pulled out two PCGS Old Green Holder treats. Both are web-book plate coins and 100% original.

The 1873 No Arrows dime was purchased back in November 1997 while the 1876-CC was acquired at the 2004 Summer ANA show. Both will reach the price list today. Best to get on with First Right of Refusals for those who are interested in providing a new home.

Old Green Holder Treats - CAC Approved Web-Book Plate Coins

1873 No Arrows CI 3 F-102 PCGS MS63 CAC OGH 10C

1876-CC F-120 PCGS MS63 CAC OGH



Global Financial News

U.S. equity markets enjoyed an up day on Thursday with morning market futures forecasting more gains prior to the Memorial Day weekend. The DJIA currently stands at 34,464.

Paper gold continues to consolidate at the \$1900 level with a morning quote of \$1896/oz. Bitcoin continues its struggles after dropping to \$35,871 during the overnight hours. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield has increased to 1.61% and deserves watching as inflation works its way across the U.S. economy.

Watch out as WTI crude has climbed to \$67.12/bbl. Following are morning market futures courtesy of Seeking Alpha.

In Asia, Japan +2.1%. Hong Kong +0.1%. China -0.2%. India +0.7%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.1%. Paris +0.5%. Frankfurt +0.4%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.5%. S&P +0.4%. NASDAQ +0.3%.

Washington politicians definitely have it right on rebuilding U.S semiconductor manufacturing. If not, the Beijing Central Government will control the world's supply of semiconductors within a decade. A take-over of Taiwan and control of TSMC and Grace Semiconductor would have global security ramifications. The implications for the U.S. defense industry are frightening.

This Seeking Alpha article is worth the read.

Challenging China

Boosting U.S. economic competitiveness and confronting China's rise is going hand-in-hand again as the U.S. Senate moves toward passing the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA). The bill would sink more than \$100B into U.S. research and development and provide \$52B to advance domestic semiconductor manufacturing. It also includes a wide range of measures directly targeting China, such as its human rights record, a day after a Beijing-drafted resolution effectively ended open elections in Hong Kong.

The latest? Taking on China is a rare area of bipartisan support, but some hurdles to the bill's passage remain in the House, as well as a series of amendments under consideration. The Senate has already voted on 18 revisions, 14 of them from GOP senators, but Majority Leader Chuck Schumer still hopes to pass USICA before senators leave Washington for the holiday weekend. President Biden is also ready to sign the bill as the administration wraps up an initial supply-chain review on computer chips, EVs batteries, pharmaceuticals and minerals used in electronics.

Earlier this week, the U.S. took a significant policy shift in its approach toward China. "The period that was broadly described as engagement has come to an end," said Kurt Campbell, the U.S. coordinator for Indo-Pacific affairs on the National Security Council, adding that the new "dominant paradigm is going to be competition." Remarks by President Biden over the origins of COVID-19 (jump from animals to humans or lab accident) also angered officials in Beijing.

Excerpt from the bill: "While the U.S. represented 37% of global semiconductor manufacturing capacity in 1990, today just 12% of semiconductors are manufactured in the U.S... The Chinese Communist Party is aggressively investing over \$150B in semiconductor manufacturing so they can control this key technology... At the same time, halted domestic production lines for consumer technology, auto manufacturers, truckers, and other critical industries underscores the vulnerability the U.S. faces."

Wrapping Up The Blog

More quality consignments arrived on Thursday including a lot of Saw Mill Run Collection Liberty Seated quarters and halves and Liberty Seated dime duplicates from the Massachusetts Collection. I'm hoping for a brief period of sunshine towards photographing these coins along with the new U.S. gold from the Osprey Collection.

Thank-you for stopping by at the Blog. A happy Memorial Day weekend wish to those who will be traveling.

May 27, 2021

Maskless in Maine!

and

Oops! More Liberty Seated Dimes Than I Thought

Greetings on a Thursday morning and welcome to another Daily Blog edition.

It rained! Yes, Raymond received several hours of thunderstorms and moderate rain during on Wednesday evening. I awoke this morning to find lush greens in the backyard. A check of the Maine Wildfire Danger map still shows High Risks throughout the state. It will take several days of constant rains to drop the fire danger risks to a point where the back brush pile can be burned.

Maskless in Maine!

Exhilarating best describes Wednesday's visit to the grand metropolis known as Windham, Maine. There were planned stops at the bank to check on the exact amount of remaining Liberty Seated dimes in a personal collection followed by heading to Home Depot. We will discuss the bank box findings shortly.

When arriving to the bank branch, there was the sign in the doorway; vaccinated individuals need not wear masks! What a thrill and a bit ironic to walk into the bank lobby with tellers still wearing masks but patrons going maskless. In past years, tellers would be maskless and anyone walking in with a mask would bring about a quiet police call for attempted bank robbery. There I stood first in line with my LL Bean tote bag prepared to retrieve the remaining Liberty Seated dime double row slab box. A masked teller brings me into the bank vault and did not request ID. We will pick up this story later in the Blog.

Once done at the bank, I was off to Home Depot. Was it possible that I might walk into a Home Depot without a mask? Absolutely yes as all the masking requirement placards were gone. Again, a sense of liberation over took me as I walked through the cordless power tool aisles to reach the ant control products. Both workers and patrons were maskless. A lovely young woman even called me "Honey" while checking out. What a great day....

I don't know what the mask situation is like in Blog reader's states. I'm just thrilled to be living in Maine and will remember yesterday for years to come.

Oops! More Liberty Seated Dimes Than I Thought

Let's return to the bank box visit.

There was some certainty that only one double row slabbed box of Liberty Seated Dime web-book plate coins remained at the bank. Once the two bank boxes were retrieved and opened in that private reviewing room, it became apparent that I was wrong. First to be reviewed were the two double row boxes housing the Fortin core collection. In went the newly purchased 1853 With Arrow (PCGS MS66+ CAC Pittman) and 1869-S (PCGS MS67 CAC OGH) dimes with the duplicate pulled for immediate selling. There is always that temptation to visit with the individual's pieces in the core collection. Since on a quick mission, that temptation was ignored.

Next came the opening of the second box to find not one but three double row slabbed boxes of Liberty Seated dime web-book plate coins. Here is a quick image for those who have been requesting access to these pieces. Yes, I was surprised to see over 200 more dimes remaining in these boxes. Gone are worries about not having a sufficient GFRC supply source through the balance of 2021 and well into 2022.

Remaining TPG Certified Web-Book Plate Coins



Upon returning home, a solid twenty piece lot was pulled and promptly photographed. Nearly all are CAC approved or proofs, some both. Look for that lot along with the 1853 With Arrows PCGS MS66 and 1969-S PCGS MS66 duplicates to appear on the GFRC price list next week.

Hound Dog Dan Scores Major New Offerings

Hound Dog Dan (The Osprey Collection) made two significant five figure purchases on Wednesday. Both pieces will be shipping to the GFRC Maine office in the next few days. Those pieces are an 1854 PCGS MS65+ CAC Liberty Seated half and an 1880 NGC MS68 Star CAC \$1 gold piece. If checking the PCGS population report, the 1854 half is pop 1 at the MS65+ level. I've seen the images and approved the purchase.

Please rest assured that the GFRC price list will see a large influx of premium early type and U.S. gold starting next week. Dan's U.S. gold consignment arrived yesterday and will be processed by end of week.

Does GFRC Operate an Old Boys' Network?

Wednesday brought a sad story and the loss of a GFRC customer. The culprit is this gorgeous 1846-C PCGS VF35 CAC \$2.5 gold piece.

1846-D PCGS VF35 CAC G\$2.5



An occasional GFRC customer was distraught at not securing the lead First Right of Refusal on this coin. Here is the email that I received.

Hello Gerry,

I have purchased 3 coins from gfrc as your guide had indicated was necessary for establishing an account with your business. I have followed your blog since my first purchase of an au 1878cc f-104 dime one year ago, rising each day at 4am to be on the blog for first view of any coins on my want list. My question is simple. How does a coin get posted to the blog with a FRoR already on it, if no one has had a chance to see it yet? Are you servicing want lists first and then posting? Is there another list that customers are not aware of? Please advise us on your blog exactly how this works. Thank you!!!

My response via cellphone email while waiting in a drive thru car wash line. This was the case for the 1846-D \$2.5 and a portion of the Cumberland County Dansco album Seated halves.

Simple,

Check the Blog before going to bed. I will post preview images during later afternoon or early evening.

Nothing special at work here.

So ends a relationship.

Just checked the blog from the 25th, no mention or photo of the coin in question. Just another good old boy coin dealer at work. Our business is finished.

Sadly, this individual did not pay attention to my response. I will often post a Blog preview with the following day's header and coin images before retiring for the day. Many clients are aware of this practice and secure their FRoRs during a late evening check for potential Daily Blog preview posts.

It is difficult to imagine someone being so upset to accuse me of running an old boy dealer's network. GFRC's top clients understand the feeling of disappointment when not being first on a new offering. Sadly, this individual did not take the time to think clearly before the accusation and terminating business. So be it.

Global Financial News

There is little to discuss concerning financial markets. We are once again in a churn mode with moderating up and down days of no consequence. The financial market writers are worried as markets should be moving upward since having the Federal Reserve as a strong backstop along with recovering economic conditions. Let's remember that equity markets are leading indicators and typically front run a recovering economy by six months.

In Asia, Japan -0.3%. Hong Kong -0.2%. China +0.4%. India +0.2%.

In Europe, at midday, London -0.1%. Paris +0.5%. Frankfurt -0.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.1%. S&P -0.3%. NASDAQ -0.5%.

Paper gold is hanging on to the \$1900/oz mark and should be consolidating for the next few weeks. WTI crude pricing is flat at \$65.70/bbl along with Bitcoin holding at \$39,217. I would have hated to be buying Bitcoin at the \$55K level.

The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield is essentially flat at 1.58%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings price list posting for the balance of the Cumberland County Dansco Seated halves. The sales rate for posted offerings has been strong and should continue into the weekend.

Once the raw halves are posted, it is back to Thinning the Herd image processing and loading these marvelous Capped Bust half dimes into the COIN database.

I might also find time to process the Gerry Fortin duplicate 1853 WA and 1969-S MS66 dimes for tomorrow's Blog edition.

Thanks for stopping by at the Blog.

May 26, 2021

Early U.S. Dahlonga Gold for a Wednesday

and

Contents of a Cumberland County Liberty Seated Half Dollar Dansco Album

Greetings and welcome to the Blog on a Wednesday morning. Thank-you for checking in!

Tuesday brought a busy day in the GFRC office followed by a lovely evening dinner to celebrate our 41st anniversary. Time has a way of moving along. Each of us has opportunities to make the most of the available time in a life. Diane and I are busy people as we attempt to continually beautify a homestead, manage the GFRC business, along with staying connected with family and friends.

Our 41st anniversary dinner took place at Fishbones, an upscale eatery in the old Lewiston Bates Mill. My father worked for years at that mill unloading cotton bales from trains that had southern states origination and keeping the electric power station operating during the freezing winter months. Bates Mill was well known in its day for manufacturing quality blankets. I've digressed a bit. The exciting moment came when entering Fishbones and noting that vaccinated individuals were free to move about the restaurant without masks. There was a feeling of personal liberation after months of face coverings and quiet fear.

After a lovely dinner, the balance of the evening was spent on wrapping up the Cumberland County client gallery and table selection discussions with Ernie Botte for the upcoming summer New Hampshire Coin Expo (June 24-26). Ernie has penciled in an 8'x8' corner table for GFRC. Once the floor plan is solidified, I will announce the table location in the Blog.

Awesome Capped Bust Half Dime Consignment Arrives!

Awesome is a fitting adjective to describe the newly arrived Capped Bust half dimes from the Thinning the Herd Collection. This sixteen piece lot is notable for its strict originality and eye appeal. What a thrill when photographing the holed coins within minutes of the USPS Express delivery. The sun was high in the sky and well illuminated each piece. This lot has been newly graded and submitted to CAC. It is an old time collection that is entirely fresh to the market. Those pieces that were not CAC approved are just as nice as those that did receive the coveted green bean. Image processing will be a joy!

Early U.S. Dahlonga Gold for a Wednesday

Also arriving in the same USPS Express truck delivery was this well preserved 1846 Dahlonga gold piece. Unabraded surfaces are colored classic green-gold with copper shades at the peripheries. An astute collector has already requested a First Right of Refusal, and rightly so! Look for this lovely new purchase to reach the price list today.

Early U.S. Dahlonga Gold for a Wednesday

1846-D PCGS VF35 CAC G\$2.5



Contents of a Cumberland County Liberty Seated Half Dollar Dansco Album

Today's main Blog event is the contents of a Cumberland County Collection Dansco album. The primary Cumberland County Liberty Seated halves were sold during late January 2021 via the GFRC Online Auctions platform leaving the contents of a Dansco album to be dispositioned.

Already, First Rights of Refusals are arriving from those who are building Dansco album collections. Some collectors are even cracking out TPG certified coins to place in their bookshelf album collections. I suspect that today's offerings will be popular since fairly priced for the surface conditions. Pricing has been approved by the consignor. Price list posting will take place today with minimal descriptions to save time. Grading is conservative along with a fair representation of surface conditions. If this roll-out process goes smoothly, I will employ the same to bring two other large Dansco stored Liberty Seated half dollar lots to the price list. Those lots will be from well known Newtown and Dr. Glenn Peterson Collections.

Following is a strong selection of raw Liberty Seated halves for your consideration. Please note the inclusion of an all important 1861-O CSA Obverse W-11 offering with well defined nose to rim die crack immediately to the right of star 7. This highly detailed example has been polished and will be priced accordingly.

Contents of a Cumberland County Liberty Seated Half Dollar Dansco Album

Under Construction

1842 MD WB-106 EF40 50C

1843 WB-105 VF35 50C

1843-O WB-11 EF45 50C



1844-O WB-17 AU55 50C

1845 WB-101 EF45 50C
EF45 50C

1845-O No Drap WB-7

**1846 MD WB-101 AU50 50C****1848 WB-101 VF30 50C****1851-O WB-2 VF35 50C****1854-O WB-35 EF45 50C****1856 WB-101 EF40 50C****1856-O WB-6 EF40 50C****1854-O WB-35 EF45 50C****1856 WB-101 EF40 50C****1856-O WB-6 EF40 50C**



1858-O WB-12 AU50 50C

1858-S WB-13 EF45 50C

1861-O LA W-3 AU58



1861-O CSA WB-11 AU53 50C

1862 WB-101 AU58 50C

1864 WB-101 EF40



1865 WB-101 EF40 50C

1868 WB-102 EF45 50C

1870-S WB-1 EF45 50C

**1871-S WB-5 EF45 50C****1872 WB-101 EF40 50C****1875-CC WB-5 VF35 50C****1875-S WB-3 AU55 50C****1880 WB-102 AU53 50C****1885 WB-101 VF25 50C****1886 WB-101 VF30 50C****1887 WB-102 AU55 50C**

GFRC Needs Consignments and Major Collections

Honestly, where else can you find a dealer that handles the full scope of early type coins, U.S. gold, and select 19th Century denominations with extensive marketing and straight talk? When working with GFRC, your coins are being handled by a collector's collector. My goal is to provide the best possible service to ensure long term relationships on the buying and selling side. As the GFRC business matures, I am buying out more quality consigned coins if the quality is there and the numbers make sense. I get it that some collectors want quick cash after deciding to liquidate their numismatic holdings. However, fairness is paramount during every transaction. Win-win dealings is the GFRC operating mission.

Global Financial News

Paper gold prices have easily moved through the \$1900 mark with a morning quote of \$1909/oz. If we add on the physical gold premium, an ounce of *in your hand gold* will cost roughly \$2100. It was not that long ago that gold formed a double bottom at \$1680/oz.

U.S. equity markets finished Tuesday's trading pretty much where they started. Morning market futures indicate a slightly positive opening but sentiment could shift in a heartbeat. Following are global market futures courtesy of Seeking Alpha.

In Asia, Japan +0.3%. Hong Kong +0.7%. China +0.3%. India +0.8%.

In Europe, at midday, London -0.2%. Paris +0.1%. Frankfurt -0.2%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.3%. S&P +0.3%. NASDAQ +0.3%.

Covid-19 vaccinations rates have crossed through the 50% level nation wide which is leading to ongoing reopening of the U.S. economy. Red states are leading the way. That optimism is appearing in the 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield which has pulled back to 1.56% and may drop further. Another bond market rally appears to be underway.

Crude oil is flat at \$65.92/bbl while Bitcoin is attempting to claw back its recent losses with a quote of \$40,205.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings one of those non-stop busy periods. Morning shipping leads to a trip to Windham and a bank box visit to retrieve more Liberty Seated dimes from the Gerry Fortin Collection along with more gallons of ant control. The dry conditions are a huge enabler for the back lawn ant population. I'm determined to win that battle this year and wipe out those insects.

Mid afternoon brings Kevin Johnson back for another round of wood sawing and removal.

I will be working well into the late evening to get GFRC deliverables accomplished.

Once again, thank-you for stopping by for a Daily Blog visit.

May 25, 2021

Cumberland County Raw Seated Half Dollar Offerings Preview Osprey U.S. Gold and Thinning the Herd Capped Bust Half Dimes Arrive Today and Moving Out and Sawing 8' Logs

Greetings on another gorgeous southern Maine morning and welcome to the Blog.

Maine weather continues to be ideal with seasonal temperatures. However, the absence of rain is worrisome. Already, a walk on the back lawn brings a crunching sound that is typical of the July/August time frame. The seven day weather forecast brings no relief either. The only positive news is that temperatures will cool into the low to high 50s for Memorial Day weekend. Yes, those are the forecasted daytime highs.

Several Blog readers commented that taking Sunday off appeared to be an energizing event. Those individual were most perceptive as the time off did recharge my batteries. After working seven days a week for as long as I can remember, the opportunity to do something else at 7:00 AM other than writing a Blog was exhilarating.

While grilling burgers late Monday afternoon, a phone call arrived from a long term GFRC client. The phone call topic is what many numismatic dealers dream about. Yes, this is a teaser. More will be shared as plans are firmed up.

Cumberland County Raw Seated Half Dollar Offerings Preview

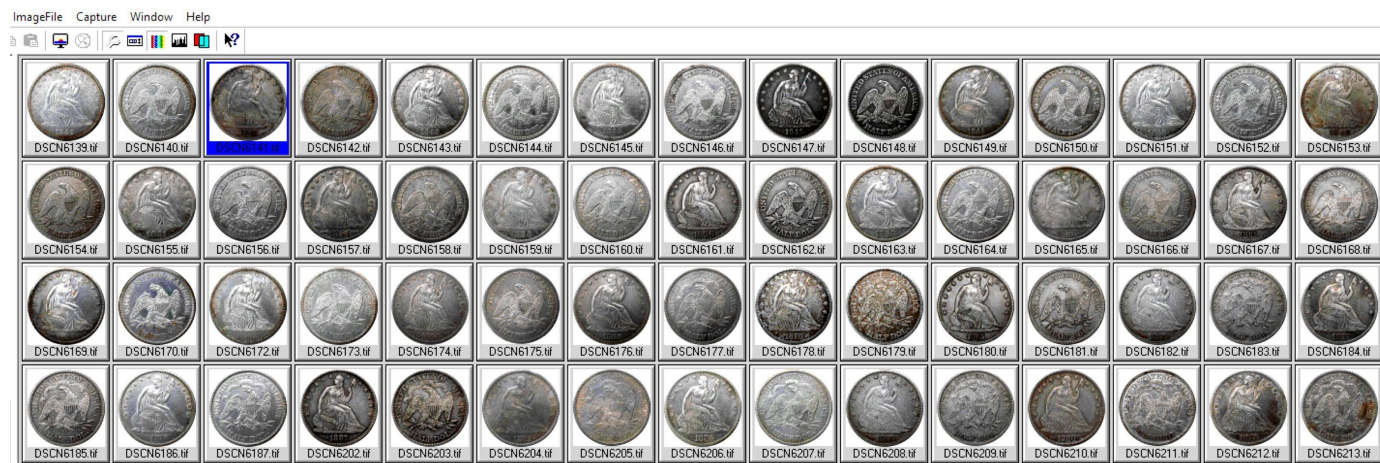
I want to assure Blog readers that I am not constantly goofing off in the back acreage project and not paying attention to consignments and the GFRC business. After living in the Venice office "cave" during the winter months along with Covid-19 isolation, finding balance between the business and time "on the land" is underway. Yesterday, was a balance day with several hours outdoors along with developing another consignment release.

My immediate focus is a 30 piece lot of raw Liberty Seated half dollars from the Cumberland County Collection. The demand for Seated halves has been overwhelming during 2021. Without a major TPG holdered consignment, I'm reverting to Dansco albums for maintain a steady flow of Seated halves to the price list. The Cumberland County process will pave the way for additional raw halves from the Newtown and Dr. Peterson Collections. If GFRC, as a major Liberty Seated coinage dealer, is struggling to keep TPG approved Liberty Seated coinage flowing to the price list, then collector demand is outstripping supply. The alternative is to post raw coins until a new source can be located for certified offerings.

Following is a screen capture of the Cumberland County halves within the image processing cycle. Remaining is merging obverse and reverse images, final color balance, and file naming. I plan to price this lot within the next 24-36 hours and secure consignor approval. Afterwards, the price list posting occurs.

Clicking in the below image will provide access to a high resolution version for those who are curious. There are several low mintage later Philly dates in the lot. Surface conditions are varied therefore, I will use the Original, Market Acceptable, and Cleaned quality ratings to guide potential buyers.

Cumberland County Raw Seated Half Dollar Offerings Preview



Osprey U.S. Gold Consignment Arrives Today

After a quiet period, I am thrilled to announce that the Osprey Collection has accumulated a substantial U.S. gold consignment as much needed reinforcements for the GFRC gold price list. This lot is due to arrive this afternoon along with plans for a quick turnaround through the photography and posting process. \$3 gold dates include 1855-S, 1856-S, and 1865. \$5 gold dates are 1812, 1880-CC and 1891-CC. There is also a 1907 Liberty \$20 that will be promptly heading to CAC as a high grade overseas example.

Thinning the Herd Collection Consignment Arrives Today

I am equally pleased to announce the consignment of a sixteen piece certified Capped Bust half dime consignment from the Thinning the Herd Collection. This consignment is a combination of holdered (16) and raw (21) Capped Bust half dimes. Following are the certified pieces along with the all important CAC approval status.

This lot shipped yesterday and is due to arrive today along with the Osprey U.S. gold pieces. Diane will be most busy opening USPS Express boxes and organizing these fresh consignments.

1829	LM-3	PCGS AU-53	R-2	CAC
1829	LM-7.1	PCGS AU-55	R-4	
1829	LM-7.3	PCGS AU-50	R-4	
1830	LM-2	PCGS AU-58	R-3	CAC
1830	LM-4.2	PCGS AU-58	R-2	
1830	LM-8	PCGS AU-50	R-1	
1830	LM-14	PCGS AU-55	R-3	CAC
1831	LM-1.2	PCGS MS-62+	R-1	
1831	LM-5	PCGS AU-58	R-1	CAC
1831	LM-6	PCGS AU-55	R-1	CAC
1832	LM-8.4	PCGS AU-58	R-3	CAC

1833	LM-3.3	PCGS MS-61	R-2	CAC
1833	LM-4.1	PCGS AU-58	R-2	
1833	LM-10	PCGS MS-62	R-1	
1835	LM-8.2	PCGS AU-55	R-2	CAC
1837	LM-1	PCGS AU-50	R-1	

Moving Out and Sawing 8' Logs

Early Monday afternoon brought a visit from Kevin Johnson. Kevin is Diane's former business partner for their Windham Paint and Framing business that has since been closed. Kevin lives locally in Casco and burns wood throughout the winter months.

Late last year, we offered Kevin the opportunity to take possession of the piles of 8' birch, maple, and oak logs from the 2020 trail clearing project. There is much downed oak, from the coastal horizon clearing effort, that requires initial sawing to separate branches from the main trunks. Afterwards, the trunks must be cut into 8' sections for transport by the JD2025R.

Kevin arrived at noon on Monday with chain saw and trailer. Since not having equipment to move the 8' logs out of the trailer, the alternative was to quickly saw logs within the trailer. For two hours, Gerry manned the JD2025R, with front grapple, and brought logs out of the acreage for placement in Kevin's trailer. Following is an image taken while Kevin was sawing away. Clearly, I could load logs faster than Kevin's ability to saw into 16" lengths. Also note the beautiful blue skies that nicely frame the homestead and surrounding landscaping.

Yes, it is recognized that Kevin was not wearing gloves, a safety helmet or chaps. In Maine, we are also free to ride motorcycles without helmets!

Loading Kevin Johnson's Trailer with Firewood



Here is the JD2025R on a photo-opt break to allow Kevin time to catch-up with his chain saw efforts. The front grapple, with third function hydraulics, is my favorite implement. The grapple can easily manhandle large logs and rocks up to 800 lbs.

The main pathway is easily seen on the right while a huge downed pine tree is visible upper left. The tractor is resting on a filled in area that was later completed after Kevin's departure. That narrow path will allow the JD2025R to access the down pine tree and move its soon to be sawn sections to the burn pile. Key is rain for burning the existing pile before I can clear out the pine tree.

A Dust Covered JD2025R Takes Photo-Opt Break



Global Financial News

Happy Days have returned to Wall Street! U.S. equities were up on Monday with the DJIA gaining to 34,393 and the S&P at nearly 4,200. Morning market futures are again positive and forecasting another day of equity market gains across the globe.

In Asia, Japan +0.7%. Hong Kong +1.8%. China +2.4%. India flat.

In Europe, at midday, London flat. Paris +0.1%. Frankfurt +0.8%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.6%. S&P +0.3%. NASDAQ +0.3%.

Risk on sentiment is on full display as the 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield has dropped to 1.59%. Paper gold pricing has inched up to \$1884/oz while Bitcoin staged a mild recovery to \$37,768. Crude oil is also in demand at a price of \$65.61/bbl.

Wrapping Up The Blog

This has been a long edition with much to share. It appears that the GFRC consignment backlog will be recovering nicely as we move into June.

Thank-you for checking in at the Blog. Please keep watching the [30 Day Price List](#) for a new offerings stream.

May 24, 2021

**Got Rain? Massive Burnpile Needs to Go Away
and
More Twin Lakes Collection Lincoln Cents to Consider**

Greetings on a gorgeous southern Maine morning and welcome to the Blog. Thanks for coming back to check on another week's ramblings.

The day starts with cool 44F temperature that will peak at 65 degrees during the afternoon. Skies are clear blue. How I would love to spend the early hours on the JD2025 but today's shipping is substantial along with correspondence for weekend orders.

Taking Sunday off was mentally refreshing. By 7:00 AM, I was out on the tractor and starting a day's effort to clean-up the primary pathway into the back acreage trails. Moving dirt and rocks kept me busy until 1:00 PM when the weather shifted towards high winds and a rain possibility. Sadly, isolated showers hit Windham but not the Raymond area. Though the lawns have fully greened for the spring season, rain is critical in the near term to maintain lush colors.

Today's opening headline captures our need for 2-3 days of ongoing rain to reduce wildfire dangers. A huge brush burn pile has been growing as a function of traditional spring clean-up and trail improvements. If I could burn this pile, there is incremental brush along the trails to quickly duplicate the current pile. Following is a quick photograph taken at 6:15 AM that does not adequately capture the amount of brush to be eliminated. The pile is over 8' tall and at the limits of the JD2025R front loader.

Back Acreage Brush Burn pile



This image captures the main pathway that leads to the back trails intersection. Turning right takes you to the southeast trail, while turning left will bring visitors to the northern and northeast route to the natural springs. This pathway will see considerable equipment traffic as all trail lining gravel must be transported via this path. An initial goal is to build up this section with fill and remove rocks within the JD2025R's lifting capabilities. One can see another brush pile on the left that must be removed once the main brush pile is burned. The downed oak tree at the back of the intersection, will be removed this week with a cordless Echo chain saw. Please note that the current pathway status is an interim step. Another layer of crushed stone will be laid over the newly installed fill. The goal is to have ongoing trail maintenance accomplished with the Landpride grader attached to the back of the tractor.

Interim Step: Filled In Main Pathway



This image should provide a sense of the size and number of larger rocks that were relocated from the pathway and placed onto the right side of the settler's stone wall. Dark brown colored rocks were dug with the 260B backhoe and transported with the front loader. Smaller rocks that bordered the pathway were hand loaded into the front bucket as a clean-up effort. Unquestionably, the visual presence of the settler's initial stone wall will grow substantially during the coming weeks as the supply of building material is endless.

Efficiency was paramount during Sunday morning's efforts. Fill was transported down to the pathway and rocks brought up to the wall. Each trip accomplished two goals.

Building Up the Settler's Stone Wall



GFRC Needs Consignments, Collections for Auction, or Outright Purchases!

Please humor me while I make a plea for incremental consignments!

The past weekend saw the City By The Bay and Running Boar consignments posted with healthy initial sales. Another round of Twin Lakes PCGS MS64RB Lincolns have also reached the price list. The consignment queue is adequate for about another ten days. Up next is a 30 piece Cumberland County Collection lot of raw Liberty Seated halves from a Dansco album. Dan White is shipping a strong U.S. gold consignment this week. I'm still waiting for shipping status from the Thinning The Herd Collection concerning his committed Capped Bust and Liberty Seated half dime lot.

Following is a client gallery display of Part 2 of the Twin Lakes Lincoln Cents to whet your appetite.

More Twin Lakes Collection Lincoln Cents to Consider

1925-S PCGS MS64RB CAC 1C

1927-S PCGS MS64RB CAC 1C

**1914 PCGS MS64RB 1C****1915 PCGS MS64RB 1C****1915-D PCGS MS64RB 1C****1916 PCGS MS64RB 1C****1917 PCGS MS64RB 1C****1917-D PCGS MS64RB 1C****1918 PCGS MS64RB CAC 1C****1919 PCGS MS64RB CAC 1C****1919-S PCGS MS64RB****CAC 1C**



1926 PCGS MS64RB 1C

1926-D PCGS MS64RB CAC 1C

1927 PCGS MS64RB CAC 1C



All of a sudden, Liberty Seated dimes are once again in high demand. It only takes two or three active collectors to jump into a series to ignite sales. If the consignment queue remains limited, a bank box visit will be in order to review the remaining Seated Dime web-book plate coins that could be use to fuel renewed interest. What was an endless supply from a personal collection is rapidly approaching its final days and could be depleted by the end of 2021.

Global Financial News

Another equity trading week arrives with global futures being slightly upbeat. Bitcoin went on another roller coaster ride during the weekend and is quoting at \$36,827 to start the day. Otherwise, there is little to discuss. Recent stock market gains have coin collectors in an upbeat mood with demand well exceeding supply.

In Asia, Japan +0.2%. Hong Kong flat. China +0.3%. India +0.2%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.2%. Paris +0.1%. Frankfurt +0.4%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.5%. S&P +0.5%. NASDAQ +0.6%.

WTI crude has regained ground to \$64.64/bbl. Paper gold has climbed to \$1882/oz and should break through the \$1900 level this week. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield has pulled back to 1.62%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The Memorial Day weekend is just a few days away. I'm certain that summer vacations will be a top priority for many in the GFRC community. Let's remember that everyone is excited about heading outdoors without masks after a year plus of lockdowns. This brings an interesting item to share.

On Sunday afternoon, Diane and I took the Miata to a local Windham outdoor ice cream shop. Winds were steady at 15mph with stronger gusts. Since being vaccinated and recognizing the strong winds, I decide not to wear a mask while standing in the outdoor line. Would you believe that I was one of the few, other than children, to not be wearing a mask? Logically, there was not need for a mask but Diane had her mask on. I asked why? She responded because everyone else had their's own. Just food for thought about human nature and the follow the crowd effect.

OK, I've rambling long enough for this edition. It is nice to be back in the GFRC office but the idea of not working on Sundays through the summer months is enticing.

Thanks again for stopping by at the Blog.

May 22, 2021

Summer FUN is Definitely On! and Running Boar/City By The Bay Consignments

Greetings on a quiet Saturday morning and welcome to more Blog ramblings. Thanks for checking in.

The month of May is moving along much too quickly with next weekend bringing the long Memorial Day weekend. Downtime Raymond and Naples will transition from off season Maine life to being overwhelmed with out of state tourists. Our primary access road to Windham (Rt 85) will be taxed to the limit during the summer tourist season.

Economic growth is visible here in Maine. Just down Valley Road, a new home is being constructed along with initial marketing of a ten lot subdivision. It is difficult to imagine Valley Road sustaining more traffic, but it will arrive. The days of taking a leisurely walk on Valley and Ledge Hill Roads are long gone due to excessive traffic.

The ongoing local land development is a major reason for developing Ledge Hill Trails in the back 20 acres. Walking under a tree canopy on nicely graveled trails will allow the Forties to age gracefully and maintain health without fear of being struck by a distracted driver. The Trails will also aid in the marketing of the Raymond homestead in the far future.

Yesterday's health walk down to the natural spring brought a sad observation and another challenge. The lack of rain has turned the pool greenish colored and a spawning ground for mosquitoes. The pool is too shallow and quickly heats up when there is little water flow. The current plan is to dig the pool down substantially with Dave Wilkinson's excavator along with building a dam to raise the water level. The goal is a minimum depth of 4-5 feet. Hopefully, this will increase water flow and sustain the pool's cooler temperature during dry periods and clearer water.

Friday also brought the delivery of the Polar HD 1500 Dump Trailer via a local trucking company. Sadly, the box was quite damaged upon arrival but schedules dictated that I must accept the shipment. Two young chaps unloaded the box followed by opening and checking that all the contents were still in the container. This was done successfully to the relief of the young men. They thought for sure that I would reject the delivery. Afternoon saw the careful assembly of the trailer. The design is marvelous with easy maintenance of the wheel and tandem axle bearings. This dump trailer will see a substantial amount of usage in the coming few years and having a straight forward greasing approach is a huge plus.

Summer FUN is Definitely On!

An all important email also appeared in my Inbox on Friday. The FUN organization is confirming that Summer FUN is definitely on during the second week of July.

Dan and I are thrilled with the news and looking forward to the GFRC corner table assignment and bourse location. That information will be published on the FUN website in a few weeks.

Based on conversations with several national level dealers located in Florida, the expectation is for a huge show event. Not only will collectors be traveling to Orlando, but also dealers who are attempting to build up inventories before the Chicago ANA.

Bottom line, if you have been considering selling numismatic items for top dollar, the next six weeks are an opportunity to consign to GFRC and allow me to prepare your coins for price list and Summer FUN show exposure. Since we are driving to Orlando and will exhibit in eight cases on a corner table, GFRC will be able to showcase a huge amount of inventory that will garner substantial scrutiny by dealers and collectors.

Running Boar/City By The Bay Consignments

This week brought the arrival of two smaller consignment. Small does not equate to lower quality. Instead, the following six new offerings are very desirable and will probably sell quickly given current collector demand levels.

The Running Boar Collection is about done with his project to reposition collecting goals. This two CAC approved pieces are no longer core to his holdings and ready to be sold. Both can be found at the top of the [30 Day Price List](#)

CAC Approved Running Boar Collection Consignment

1839 Drap WB-3 PCGS EF45 CAC 50C

1838 HM-1 NGC AU50 CAC G\$2.5



The City By The Bay Collection remains active and is aggressively pursuing San Francisco mint marked upgrades. The challenge is locating better date upgrades in a supply constrained market. The following four duplicates were shipped to GFRC towards helping sustain a flow of new offerings. The 1860-S half is an old friend that was purchased from GFRC. The sales record is in the [Sales Archive](#) for those who are curious. The balance are fresh to GFRC and quality pieces. Look for these to reach the price list by end of day tomorrow or sooner.

City By The Bay Collection Duplicate Offerings

1860-S WB-1, NGC AU58 CAC 50C



1858-S WB-x PCGS EF45 50C

1867-S WB-x PCGS EF45 50C

1873-S PCGS EF40 T\$1



It Is My Job to Ask!

I'm certain that many Blog readers are tired of seeing requests for consignments or larger collections for the GFRC Online Auctions platform. Since GFRC does not solicit clients via email newsletters or mailed printed advertisements, the Daily Blog is the only conduit for making requests. It is my job to continually ask for duplicates or whatever is possible to live without within your numismatic holdings.

Shortly, I will be visiting the Windham bank box and leading by example. Get ready for another Liberty Seated dime wave including more of the CAC approved "top of the ladder" web-book plate coins.

Please consider helping me out with a consignment. Yes, I know it is a pain to prepare an invoice for shipping your coins. If your proposed consignment is at the six figure level, I can drive out to secure the consignment contents rather than shipping. Proximity to New England or the mid-Atlantic states will be important.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Please understand that GFRC will be closed tomorrow (Sunday) for a much needed day off. The Dewalt cordless grease gun is due to arrive today leading to a fully greased JD2025R front loader and backhoe by tomorrow morning. The yellow diesel can is full of fuel too. My plan is to spend the entire day working on the Ledge Hill Trails project and constructing tractor traversable pathways to start exporting cut logs. This will be the first major beautification step. Next is starting to remove shallow rocks/roots from the trails and planing the surfaces. In just two weeks, Dave Wilkinson returns with his excavator to cut the northern and north-eastern perimeter trails.

Thanks for checking at the Blog. I will be in the office through early afternoon.

May 21, 2021

Dr. Durazo's Weekend Prescription

and

CAC Approved Standing Liberty Quarters and Morgans - Originality on Display

Greetings and welcome to a Friday Daily Blog edition.

Much needed light rain is falling as today's Blog edition is composed. Sadly, the rain will be gone in a few hours with a chance of additional showers on Saturday. We are already to the point of needing several days of steady precipitation to maintain green lawns and recharge the quiet natural spring.

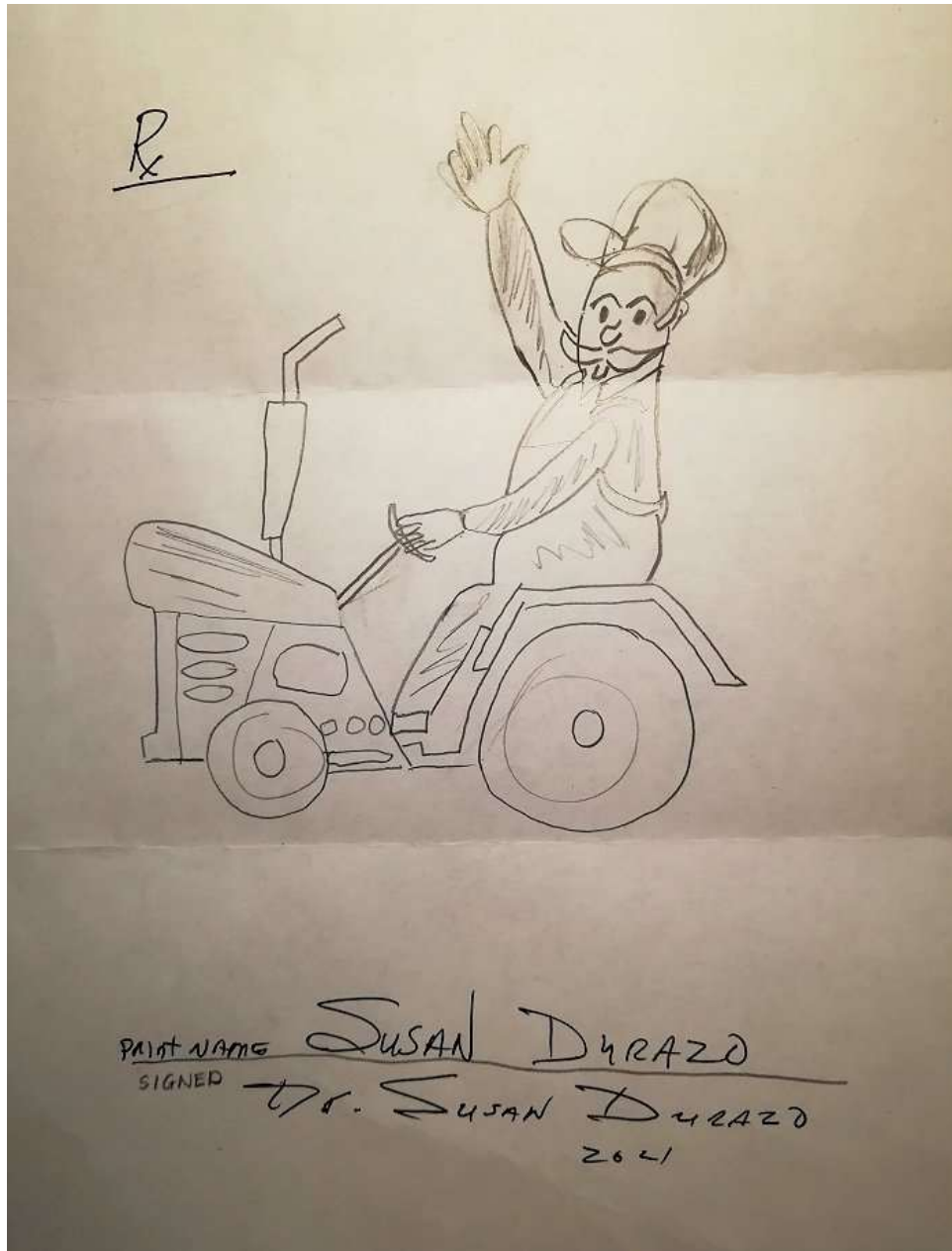
I awoke quite early this morning and was able to post several fresh lots of CAC approved offerings as a result of Thursday's image processing. Honestly, my fingers are tired, painful, and need a break. Earlier this week, a prescription arrived from Dr. Durazo concerning the upcoming weekend. The wholehearted recommendation was a break from the GFRC office with special medical relief via time on the JD2025R tractor. See the lovely drawn prescription from Dr. Tenafly's business associate below. I plan to stop being stubborn and will fully comply.

Let it be known that the GFRC office will be closed on Sunday for a much needed day of rest. This includes the Daily Blog. I am taking a break from ongoing typing and image processing. The cellphone will be left in the office while working

outdoors. Text messages and phone calls will be answered late Sunday or Monday morning.

Dr. Durazo's Weekend Prescription

GFRC is Closed on Sunday!



Today brings the arrival of the Polar Heavy Duty 1500 dual axle dump trailer. This trailer will require several hours of assembly before becoming a critical component in the back acreage trail building project. I'm targeting Saturday afternoon for that session.

The new Dewalt cordless grease gun has a Saturday forecasted arrival. The timing is perfect for facilitating the greasing of the JD2025R's front loader and backhoe early on Sunday morning. Afterwards, man and tractor will work as one to move the remaining fill, courtesy of Dave Wilkinson, down into the primary back acreage working path and filling in low spots. Once that path is solidified, a special gravel mix will be brought onto the trails and a host of rocks will be moved onto the settler's initial stone wall. Free birch, maple and oak logs will also be available for those who arrive with a chain saw and help cut downed trees.

CAC Approved Standing Liberty Quarters and Morgans - Originality on Display

If checking the 30 Day Price List, the following illustrated Morgan dollars and Standing Liberty quarters will be found with descriptions and offer prices. This lot showcases strictly original silver coinage with natural surfaces. All are CAC

approved. Please pay attention to the lower grade Morgans as several have tiny CAC approved populations.

CAC Approved Standing Liberty Quarters and Morgans - Originality on Display

1878-CC PCGS MS64 CAC \$1

1889-S PCGS MS63 CAC \$1



1923 PCGS MS64 CAC 25C

1924-D PCGS MS64 CAC OGH 25C
OGH 25C

1928-S PCGS MS64 CAC



1892-CC PCGS VG08 CAC \$1

1893 PCGS EF40 CAC\$1
CAC\$1

1899 PCGS AU58



Global Financial News

After three consecutive down days, U.S. equity markets were up on Thursday and appear positioned for more gains today.

I spoke with my money manager on Thursday. The conversation's bottom line was an expanding U.S. economy with the materials and energy sections leading the way. Airlines and tourism industries will be saturated with renewed demand as people emerge from lockdowns. Inflation is already working its way through the economy and is most notable in the housing sector. Merrill Lynch is forecasting an S&P at 4900 by early 2022 though there will be some bumps in the road.

Bitcoin has stabilized for the time being at \$40,763 per coin. There are reports that the Biden administration will expand the IRS to increase auditing along with special transaction reporting for those conducted with cryptocurrency. The Treasury Department is thinking through a CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) that will be necessary to counter Chinese efforts with respect to their digital Yuan.

Following are morning market futures that are consistently positive.

In Asia, Japan +0.8%. Hong Kong +0.1%. China -0.6%. India +2%.

In Europe, at midday, London flat. Paris +0.5%. Frankfurt +0.2%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.3%. S&P +0.3%. Nasdaq +0.3%.

Crude oil pricing has dropped to \$62.63/bbl while paper gold pricing is holding strong at \$1878/oz. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield stands at 1.64%

Wrapping Up The Blog

I'm heading down to the natural spring for a health walk before we face a huge shipping backlog during the morning hours. This afternoon brings a special client visit to the GFRC office. Once that is out of the way, the balance of the day will be spent photographing two smaller consignments that arrived yesterday. These will be the last to be posted to the price list before closing down GFRC on Saturday afternoon.

Thanks for checking in at the Blog. Wishing everyone a smooth transition into the coming weekend.

May 20, 2021

The Daily Blog Takes a Break and Can You Spare Some Duplicates?

Greetings on a Thursday morning. A perfect southern Maine spring day is at hand with a forecasted high temp of 68F.

GFRC sales have been robust during the month of May. Somehow, balancing outdoor landscaping goals with GFRC's ongoing operations has been managed. It always does given year's of refined time management skills. The wild card is

attempting to mitigate the pain and swelling of my fingers.

Week-to-date, a host of new offerings reached the **30 Day Price List** with many being promptly sold. The U.S. coin market remains red hot for a host of reasons. Hobbies continue to be an important escape from the on line irrationality of modern life. Equity markets are close to all-time highs. Economic inflation is now apparent with paper gold touching the \$1900 mark last evening. Truly rare and premium coins are an enticing collecting opportunity while being a long term financial holding. GFRC has been blessed with its positioning in today's numismatic market.

The Daily Blog Takes a Break

Today's Blog will be brief as the processed image queue is empty. Time is required to prepare more images for Friday's Blog and the continual showcasing of new offerings. My fingers also need a break after writing long descriptions on Wednesday plus client correspondence.

Following is a brief summary of what to expect for new offerings during the next five days.

- A run of mostly CAC approved Lincoln cents all graded PCGS MS64RB
- A five piece lot of CAC approved Morgan dollars plus three CAC approved PCGS MS64 Standing Liberty quarters
- A thirty piece lot of raw Liberty Seated halves

Arriving soon or being placed in the the USPS transport queue are the following new consignments:

- Saw Mill Run's latest duplicates divestment; a ten piece Liberty Seated quarter and half dollar lot
- A thirty-six piece Capped Bust and Liberty Seated half dime lot from the Thinning the Herd Collection
- Better date U.S. gold offerings from the Osprey Collection
- A two piece lot from the Running Boar Collection that took a USPS sight seeing tour across the U.S. and is really delayed

In aggregate, the above will keep the GFRC wheels turning into early June. A sincere thank-you goes out to all who continually support this platform with new offerings.

Can You Spare Some Duplicates?

The GFRC community is like a voracious baby that must be continually fed. Demand for quality Liberty Seated coinage and Capped Bust halves is at an all time high. GFRC price lists are slowly shrinking as new offerings as being absorbed as soon as posted along with sales of older inventory items.

Like other dealers in the U.S. numismatic market, GFRC must compete for your duplicates or collections that have reached the divestment stage. Outside of the major auction houses, no one provides better service with creative marketing for smaller collections or consignments than GFRC. Hopefully this fact is apparent when reading the Daily Blog. GFRC respects your privacy and does not issue newsletters or regular emails touting the latest offerings or weekly auctions. If you are passionate about the numismatic hobby, I leave it to you to visit the GFRC price lists or the Blog at your convenience.

Bottom line, GFRC would enjoy working with current clients on collection realignment goals or wholesale divestment. You can rest assured that your cherished coins will be repositioned with other collectors rather than being sold wholesale to other dealers. Case in point is this week's purchase of the Black Point Collection's \$3 gold duplicates by the Watch Hill Collection. Both individuals "could not be more pleased" with the transaction and fair prices.

Recommendations to non-GFRC clients would be appreciated. If you have a numismatic friend who is struggling with moving along a collection, I would appreciate my name being mentioned as a potential alternative.

Global Financial News

Bitcoin remains in technical breakdown mode. Last evening saw the crypto drop to as low as \$29K before recovering after Elon Musk tweeted that Tesla would not sell its holdings. Frankly cryptos = gambling casino. When one tweet can move a digital asset by 30%, it is time to be "invested" elsewhere.

Global markets remain on edge with weak morning market futures. One must keep markets in proper perspective however.

- The Dow is down 2.9% from its record close 12 days ago
- The S&P is down 3.2% from its record close 12 days ago
- The NASDAQ is down 6.5% from its record close 23 days ago.

Following are morning market futures courtesy of Seeking Alpha.

In Asia, Japan +0.2%. Hong Kong -0.7%. China -0.1%. India -0.7%.

In Europe, at midday, London flat. Paris +0.6%. Frankfurt +0.5%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.6%, S&P -0.6%, NASDAQ -0.6%.

WTI crude oil has dropped to \$62.43/bbl while paper gold is solidly at \$1868/oz. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield stands at 1.66%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is little else to be said. The shipping queue is on the light side today which is good. I need as much time as possible in the image processing department.

Once again, thank-you for stopping by at the Blog.

May 19, 2021

More GFRC New Purchases to Consider Black Point Collection \$3 Gold Offerings are Near Sellout! and Bitcoin is Crashing!

Greetings on a seasonal spring morning in southern Maine and welcome to the Blog.

Spring's arrival is essentially complete outside the front office window. Nature's awakening sees varying shades of green along with the deep maroon of the initial flowering plum bloom. Rodent reconnaissance suggests a few younger chipmunks along with several red squirrels moving about the property. It will take time and patience for their removal.

Pete Thiberge was back on Tuesday to quote several more sun room and back deck projects. We've decided to remove the insulation under the sun room as a first step as the space is not longer heated in the winter. The back grilling deck will be expanded with new posts and footings. Gone will be pressure treated lumber in lieu of composite materials. The traditional deck railing, a magnet for wasp nests, will be replaced with a glass like or clear solution to improve the viewing ease of the coastal horizon. August will be the targeted time frame for these upgrades.

I'm already missing time on the JD2025R but will not use the tractor until the battery driven grease gun arrives with all fittings appropriately greased. Yesterday brought a visit to Hall Implement to secure John Deere's 3% Moly cartridges for the grease gun. The fine attendant provided plain spoken advice.....*don't get this on your clothes as the person who does the laundry will hate you.*

In an upcoming Blog edition, I will showcase the massive burn pile that is accumulating behind the settler's stone wall. Maine is experiencing dry weather conditions with heightened wildfire warnings. It will take several days of constant rains before I can comfortably burn the pile in a controlled manner.

More GFRC New Purchases to Consider

The GFRC continues to be a beehive of activity with daily ongoing shipments and new purchase arrivals. Following are four new purchases for your consideration.

The 1876 Type II Trade dollar exhibits attractive rose and blue-green toning that is uncommon for the denomination. This would be a great type piece. The 1904 \$2.5 quarter eagle is another type set candidate with thick frosty luster. Darker field regions are so heavily frosted that the camera is fooled.

Up next are two Liberty Seated quarters. The 1857-O offers pretty peripheral old album toning and becomes a better date in AU or better. The 1869-S is old friend that has been bought back. The date has one of the lowest CAC approved populations with a meager 13 pieces.

Quality GFRC New Purchases

1876 Type II PCGS MS63 CAC T\$1

1904 PCGS MS66+ CAC G\$2.5 50C



1876-O PCGS AU53 25C

1869-S PCGS VF30 CAC 25c



Black Point Collection \$3 Gold Offerings are Near Sellout!

Yesterday evening brought the sale of nearly all the Black Point Collection \$3 gold piece. Remaining are the 1871 PCGS EF45 and the gem 1872 PCGS AU55 CAC specimens.

I'm pleased to report that the Watch Hill Collection purchased the majority of the Black Point duplicates with the 1854 PCGS AU55 Gold CAC heading into The Matthew Yamatin Collection of exclusive Gold CAC entries for the 1834 to 1932 Gold Type Set, Business Strikes within the GFRC Open Set Registry.

Needless to say, the Black Point Collection consignor is pleased with how quickly his duplicates located new homes.

Global Financial News - Bitcoin is Crashing

The major financial news of the day is Bitcoin taking it on the chin and down to \$39K during the overnight hours. Multiple issues are appearing including an ironic statement from the People's Bank of China banning financial institutions from conducting cryptocurrency transactions. I use the word "ironic" as Beijing is implementing its own digital Yuan currency. But first, Beijing must destroy other cryptocurrencies to ensure that the "digital Yuan" become dominant.

Following is the complete Seeking Alpha report on the Bitcoin situation.

The crypto craze is no longer ablaze as the traders assess recent happenings in the volatile market. Over the last 24 hours, Bitcoin plunged another 12.6% to \$39,407, while Ether - which is linked to the ethereum blockchain network - dropped 16% to \$2,924. Bitcoin has even fallen below its 200-day moving average and is now down 40% from its all-time high of \$64,895.22 on April 14.

Are 2020's big trades unwinding? The popular winners of yesteryear, including Tesla/growth stocks and Bitcoin/crypto, have been under pressure in recent months and weeks as money continues to move elsewhere. While a rotation has been seen into reopening and cyclical plays, as well as more stabler names, several headline stories have shaken the cryptosphere in the last few days.

Warning from Beijing: Besides environmental concerns sparked by Elon Musk - and Tesla stopping to take payment in Bitcoin - the People's Bank of China has banned financial institutions from facilitating cryptocurrency transactions. The statement was coupled with a warning to investors against "speculative crypto trading," which "seriously infringes on the safety of people's property and disrupts the normal economic and financial order."

Caution from the SEC: "Investors should understand that Bitcoin, including gaining exposure through the Bitcoin futures market, is a highly speculative investment," the regulator wrote in a recent notice, adding it will "closely monitor" whether mutual funds that invest in Bitcoin futures comply with federal securities laws. That kind of thinking may not bode well for some highly anticipated Bitcoin ETFs, according to Todd Rosenbluth, head of ETF and mutual fund research at CFRA Research. "I view the additional concerns about how an ETF cannot close to new investors and that it could become big over a short period of time to make it unlikely that the SEC approves a dedicated Bitcoin ETF in 2021."

Mining concerns: Nvidia is reducing the hash rates on the new GeForce RTX 3080, 3070, and 3060 Ti graphics cards that will start shipping before the end of May. The decision will make more supplies available for the core gaming audience amid a widespread GPU shortage. Back in February, Nvidia also announced its GeForce RTX 3060 graphics cards would ship with a reduced hash rate to discourage Ethereum mining.

Global markets are in a risk-on mood with losses forecasted across the planet. Commodities are also being impacted while the 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield moves up to 1.66%

Paper gold remains in good shape at \$1858/oz while WTI crude has pulled back to \$64.12/bbl.

In Asia, Japan -1.3%. Hong Kong closed. China -0.5%. India -0.6%.

In Europe, at midday, London -1.1%. Paris -1%. Frankfurt -1.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.7%. S&P -0.9%. NASDAQ -1.3%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

A host of overnight orders and morning shipping awaits me. The first order of business is a health walk to the natural spring.

Today also brings image processing for a large lot of CAC approved PCGS MS64RB Lincoln cents. One never knows what might be in the GFRC queue!

Thanks for stopping by at the Blog. Your ongoing patronage is appreciated.

May 18, 2021

Stunning Black Point Collection \$3 Gold Offerings!

and

Dave Wilkinson Says "It's My Lucky Day"

Greetings on a cloudy southern Maine morning and welcome to more Daily Blog ramblings.

Today's preamble will be brief as I worked late into Monday evening and was up early this morning to complete the Black Point Collection's U.S. \$3 gold client gallery. Monday brought CAC submission results ahead of schedule which enabled

the presentation of the following stunning \$3 Black Point Collection offerings

First, let's open with a Seth Godin blogpost. We find ourselves living in the modern age of perpetual change. This was undoubtedly clear during the semiconductor business years. If standing still, we were rapidly failing behind. The same is true for the humble GFRC coin business. The successful firms are constantly innovating and improving website displays and service levels. I must take a personal note to determine the next steps...

Seth Godin Blogpost - To stay the same

Willem de Kooning said, "I have to change to stay the same."

Because whatever system we're in is changing. Because every step we take changes the ground we walk on. Because while you're busy trying to keep it all together, someone else is working just as hard to change it again.

Some organizations, artists and leaders work to disrupt and innovate.

And some seem content to close their eyes and will things to be exactly as they were yesterday or last year.

Between the innovator and the laggard, though, is most of us. Surfing and dancing with possibility, simply to continue to serve and keep our promises.

What you do isn't how you do it. What you do is the promise you make to the people you serve. If the people change, then the specifics of your promise have to change as well.

Stunning Black Point Collection \$3 Gold Offerings!

The Black Point Collection consignor is a true numismatic connoisseur but also a wise collector. Today's wonderful \$3 U.S. gold presentation is a solid duplicates lot. The decision was made to sell duplicates as a numismatic capital raising exercise. One never knows when important upgrades might appear on the market for the core collection. Having cash reserves to act upon those occasions is paramount. GFRC has been selected to sell the Black Point duplicates on a fixed price list basis.

I'm certain there will be a host of First Rights of Refusals once today's Blog is seen by the GFRC community. Please send those emails promptly to avoid disappointment. The CAC submitted pieces should be back to the office today or Wednesday. Once all offerings are in hand, I will post the lot to the price list.

Please take special note of the 1854-O New Orleans offering. This date has multiple die states with clashing and die polishing taking a toll on device relief during later die states. This Black Point example is truly special since being the earliest of die states with highly detailed motifs.

Stunning Black Point Collection \$3 Gold Offerings!

1854-O NGC AU50 G\$3 - Rare Early Die State



1854 PCGS AU55 Gold CAC OGH G\$3

1868 PCGS AU55 CAC G\$3



1872 PCGS AU55 CAC G\$3

1886 PCGS AU53 CAC G\$3



1854 PCGS AU50 G\$3

1854 PCGS AU50 CAC G\$3

1856 PCGS AU55 CAC



1859 PCGS AU53 CAC G\$3

1871 PCGS EF45 G\$3
G\$3

1888 PCGS AU53 CAC



"Top of the Ladder" Port Matilda Collection Offerings are Near Sellout!

Four of the six Port Matilda "Top of the Ladder" offerings are already on hold. Demand for premiums coins, when fairly priced, is as strong as I've seen in years.

Remaining are the 1807 O-111a PCGS VF25 CAC Early Bearded Goddess and the 1893 PCGS PR63CAM Barber 50c. Hurry on these as both a superb specimens that will augment nearly all collections.

Dave Wilkinson Says "It's My Lucky Day"

A text message arrived on Monday morning from Dave Wilkinson saying, "I have a surprise for you, come out to your roadway". Well, I was so busy with morning shipping that the message was missed. However, I noted Dave's smaller red dump truck (8 yards) at the top of the hill and backing down the new access path. After seeing his truck several times and hearing the sound of backup warning beeps from the office, I went out to investigate. What a surprise to see multiple loads of fill piled sequentially up the access pathway.

Dave had just dumped his fifth load and steps out of the truck with a smile. "It is your lucky day!" Lucky indeed as Dave was hired by a neighbor to rebuild a roadside stone wall that was half buried by years of road sand. Dave extracted close to 50 yards of road sand and deposited the fill into the new access way free of charge. It was a win-win situation for Dave and me. A portion of the fill will be transported into the back 20 acre trail way project towards filling significant holes. The balance was moved on Monday afternoon, with the JD2025R, to reduce the steepness of the new Valley Road access pathway.

Following is a picture taken end of day Monday after spreading about half of the fill on the access way.

My Lucky Day - Plenty of Free Fill for Back Acreage Project



JD2025R Gets Much Needed Bath

Can you believe that I've already accumulated nearly 15 hours of operator time on the JD2025R since May 4th delivery? The JD definitely needed a bath along with cleaning deposited dirt on the engine and within the outer air filter. I'm taking a break with the tractor until an electric grease gun arrives later this week. Both the front loader and the backhoe are due to be greased after considerable usage. Paying attention to tractor maintenance is paramount. At the 50 hour mark, I'm not fooling around and will have the JD2025R transported back to Hall Implement for its initial servicing including pulling the hydraulic pump filter and removing any metal filings from the break-in period.



Global Financial News

Paper gold continues to move upward at \$1870/oz while Bitcoin is struggling at \$44,961. Just a week ago, Bitcoin was trading in the mid \$55K range. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield has climbed to 1.65%.

Morning market futures are consistently upbeat on a global basis.

In Asia, Japan +2.09%. Hong Kong +1.58%. China +0.32%. India +1.20%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.42%. Paris +0.25%. Frankfurt +0.34%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.18%. S&P +0.31%. NASDAQ +0.80%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Please keep those consignment coming! GFRC continues to offer some of the best customer service in the numismatic industry. There is always straight talk about the condition of your coins and accurate marketing along with fair selling prices.

I would love to secure a major collection for the GFRC Online Auctions platform too.

Thanks for stopping by at the Blog. Wishing everyone a great day.

May 17, 2021

Awesome "Top of the Ladder" Port Matilda Collection Offerings!
and
Valley Road Access Path Ramp is Completed

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog on another beautiful Maine spring morning. Skies are clear light blue with the front landscaping trees about 80% of the way to being fully leafed. The JD2025R is resting peacefully by the front entrance and waiting for a much deserved bath after a busy Sunday afternoon. More on that topic shortly.

During the overnight, paper gold has move through the \$1850/oz level and appears destined for a challenge to the \$1900 level this week. It is starting to feel like Jimmy Carter 2.0 and best to squirrel away some physical assets. GFRC is working overtime to increase U.S. gold price list offerings.

Did someone turn on the GFRC consignment light switch? In a matter of a week, existing consignors are coming forward with fresh consignment proposals. This weekend brought the Thinning the Herd Collection consignor into the fray with a proposed 36 piece Capped Bust half dime consignment. My response these days is straightforward, "Please ship!". The U.S. coin market remains tight on the supply side. Each new consignment proposal is a blessing for GFRC and its loyal community.

Awesome "Top of the Ladder" Port Matilda Collection Offerings!

One of the most rewarding aspects of the GFRC business is seeing the maturing of advanced collectors. One of those is the Port Matilda Collection consignor. I remember working with this individual during the early GFRC days and advising him on what to buy and what to avoid. Some of his earlier purchases were not the best. Those were dispositioned with the monies returning into top level early type and U.S. gold. Today brings a six piece consignment that would be the pride and joy of many collectors. The Port Matilda Collection is continually releasing "Top of the Ladder" holdings to fund even more profound purchases.

I'm certain that there will be rapid interest and immediate First Rights of Refusals for the following Port Matilda offerings. My advice is to not over think the purchase of these top shelf pieces. Of course, they will be priced strong for the quality. But remember, the consignor's goal is numismatic capital raising for new pursuits. This is not a buy and flip situation via GFRC for profit. Don't be bashful. Get those FRoR in quickly to avoid disappointment. This lot will be posted to the price list by end of day as I fully agree with Port Matilda's pricing guidance.

Awesome "Top of the Ladder" Port Matilda Collection Offerings!

1807 O-111a Large Stars 50/20 PCGS VF25 CAC 50C - Early Bearded Goddess



1806 O-115 PCGS EF40 CAC 50C

1808/7 O-101 PCGS EF45 CAC 50C



1846 PCGS EF45 CAC 25C

1893 PCGS PR63CAM CAC 50C
OGH 50C

1904 PCGS MS64 CAC



Valley Road Access Path Ramp is Completed

I can't say enough positive comments concerning the JD2025R. This is an amazingly flexible platform for most homeowners with larger pieces of property or natural acreage to maintain. The JD2025R also comes with a belly mower which I passed upon given the current D140 that is more than adequate for mowing the homestead lawn.

Sunday afternoon brought my first attempt at moving gravel towards building an entrance ramp from Valley Road down to the new access pathway. During the winter months in Florida, I spent lunch hours watching tractor YouTube videos and learning operating techniques. Call it home schooling. Once on the new JD2025R, those YouTube techniques quickly came into practice with a reasonable level of immediate productivity. The secret is patience and working within the tractor's capabilities. It is not a large bulldozer. Moving and grading earth can be accomplished with multiple passes that handle a smaller amount of material each time.

In Sunday's Blog, I published an image of the 16 yard gravel pile deposited by Dave Wilkinson. Following is the end product as of 5:00 PM yesterday afternoon. Clicking on the below image provides access to a higher resolution version.

Valley Road Access Ramp - Open for Wood/Trail Lining Material Transport



While working through the ramp construction, it become obvious that a few smaller trees along the ramp's edge must be removed. I've already texted Dave Wilkinson for 16 yards of his recommended trail gravel mix. The lower end of the pathway will be lined with that mix as a trial run. Once comfortable with Dave's recommendation, the Ledge Hill Trails building project begins in earnest. The new Polar HD 1500 Dump Trailer is due for delivery by the end of this week. I'm expecting the first load of free 8-12' logs to be removed starting next week via pickup truck and trailer. The recipient is Diane's former business partner at the Windham paint store. Loading his trailer will be easy with the Titan forks.

Global Financial News

Elon Musk is tweeting and driving down Bitcoin prices. The speculative nature of Bitcoin is on full display when one individual can modulate prices with a simple tweet or two. We find Bitcoin down to \$45,258 to start the day. Let's face it here. Bitcoin lacks fundamentals for evaluating its true value.

Global market futures are generally negative to start the week.

In Asia, Japan -0.92%. Hong Kong +0.47%. China +0.78%. India +1.6%.

In Europe, at midday, London -0.36%. Paris -0.19%. Frankfurt +0.01%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.2%. S&P -0.19%. NASDAQ -0.27%.

As mentioned in my opening, paper gold is quoting at \$1851/oz. Just add \$200 to gain a sense of physical gold's price. WTI Crude oil is priced at \$65.55/bbl just in time for the summer driving season. Higher gas prices will bring inflation as the cost of shipping goods for a recovering economy will go up.

The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield stands at 1.62%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

So end another morning's ramblings and GFRC updates. Thanks for stopping by at the Blog.

May 16, 2021

JD2025R is Busy on Saturday

and

GFRC Consignment Pipeline Returns to Normal Flow

Greetings on a peaceful Sunday morning from the Raymond homestead. Skies are cloudy with a few morning showers in the forecast. Temp is a comfortable 49F to start the day.

Saturday brought an exciting afternoon that will be the focus of today's ramblings.

The late morning saw the completion of daily GFRC shipping. A FedEx delivery truck arrived with the new Echo battery powered chain saw and 42" forks for the Titan fork frame that was delivered earlier in the week. The homestead is starting to feel like a full fledged construction site. Remaining is the delivery of the Polar HD 1500 dual axle dump trailer that can handle 22 cu. ft. of material at a max weight of 1500 lbs. That delivery is scheduled for May 24th.

Early afternoon brought Dave Wilkinson and his large 16 yard dump truck with a special gravel mix designed for roadway packing. The mix includes recycled crushed bricks as "the bone" for the gravel. Matt Mating, I hope you are impressed with my attention to the use of recycled material along with the battery powered Echo chain saw! Following is a photo of the delivered gravel pile and the upcoming ramp building challenge with the JD2025R.

Recycled Gravel/Crushed Brick Mix - 16 Yards



Of course, Dave Wilkinson walked down the property to view the JD2025R armed with its front grapple as I was digging out rocks. He commented that the JD was the perfect size for maneuvering through the back acreage trails and conducting the clean-up behind his much larger CASE excavator. Anything bigger would be self defeating as the larger tires would tear up lawns and the carefully prepared trails. After some back and forth, we decided on the trail lining gravel mixture that will be delivered moving forward. Dave is scheduled to return during the first half of June to cut the northern and north-eastern trails for completing the back 20 acre perimeter loop. Digging out natural spring #1 and opening natural spring #2 are also on the agenda.

Since 1987, I have been mowing around ugly rocks on the left hand side of the property. Saturday brought the removal of all but one of the "boulders". I started digging with the 260B backhoe and soon realized that the "iceberg" boulder might be in the 1500-2000 lbs. range and definitely beyond the JD2025R's max lift capability of 800 lbs with a 200 lbs grapple on the front loader arms.

As the afternoon progressed, so did the backhoe operator skills. Digging out rocks ranging in weight between 400-750 lbs become straightforward along with careful transport to the settler's stone wall. The following image was taken this morning and illustrates the rock/boulder removal aftermath. Note the properly slope which brings an additional challenge. Imagine transporting a 750 lbs boulder on this sloping terrain? One must be attentive for keeping the front load low and always moving perpendicular to the slope. Believe me, the JD2025R is far from a toy when doing this type of work.

Aftermath of Rock/Boulder Removal - Note the Remaining Huge "Iceberg" Boulder



Here is an early morning photo of the back settler's stone wall and the destination for the transported rocks/boulders. Those rocks that are dark brown were the stone wall additions on Saturday. Placing the rocks on the wall required preparation. Each location was carefully selected followed by hand shifting smaller rocks around to make room for the new arrivals and their placement. Please note the last boulder to the left that was just at the JD2025R's lifting weight limit. That boulder could not be lifted high enough for placement on top of the wall as the others. Instead, it was dropped in front of the wall and pushed into place with the front grabble while the JD was in 4WD. You can see the tractor tire tracks (lower left) that have torn up the newly planted lawn in front of the boulder.

Yes, in the upper left background is a large downed pine tree that will be sawn with the Echo battery chain saw in sessions. Its destination is the burn-pile once I can build an access path through another boulder field to gain access. This is difficult terrain for a smaller tractor.

Deposited Rocks/Boulders on the Settler's Stone Wall



GFRC Consignment Pipeline Returns to Normal Flow

Concerning the GFRC business, Saturday brought the commitment of three new consignments. Consignors include the Saw Mill Run Collection (Seated quarters/halves), the City By The Bay Collection (Seated halves/dollar), and the Running Boar Collection.

This new consignment wave nicely fills the GFRC backlog and takes us into June for new offerings. More details and itemized listings in the Blog are forthcoming once the consignments arrive to the Raymond office.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Let's end the Blog at this point. I'd like to get that health walk to natural spring #1 in followed by loading yesterday gallery display items to the price list and the weekly Collectors Corner update. The afternoon will bring image processing of the Port Matilda Collection consignment along with a brief time on the JD2025R. The newly delivered forks will be mounted on the Titan fork frame facilitating the transport of the Landpride grader into a storage location behind the settler's stone wall. That grader can be seen in front of the MDX in the above middle picture.

Thanks for checking in at the Blog and monitoring GFRC and "Ledge Hill Trails" progress. It is much fun to sit down each morning and document the events in a life.

Please consider GFRC for your numismatic needs. There is always full transparency and honest dealings. Consignor offerings are treated with respect and the best possible sales service.

I hope that you return on Monday morning for another edition of the Daily Blog.

May 15, 2021

CAC Approved New Purchases to Consider and More CAC Approved Inventory Arrives

Greetings on a thoroughly beautiful southern Maine morning. Welcome to a weekend Daily Blog edition!

Life is great being back at the Maine homestead. There is balance between the GFRC business and the outdoors.

Friday brought time in the office with the posting of the Lizard King Collection consignment to the price list. Sales have already begun. Please pay close attention to several of the \$2.5 gold pieces along with my JUST BUY IT NOW recommendations. In particular, the grossly underrated 1865-S offering and the pretty 1899 PCGS MS64 certified example that were not CAC approved. Both are bargains that an astute collector should easily recognize.

Friday also brought a major offensive against the backyard ant population. A trip into Windham secured ten gallons of ant spray, most of which was applied during the afternoon hours. Carrying three gallons in the Field King sprayer on one's back for several hours can be tiring but was necessary to rid the land of these pests. Portions of the back lawn will be tilled with a heavily weighted detacher behind the regular JD D140 mowing tractor followed by fertilizing and reseeding once the ant infestations are no more.

Friday also brought a wonderful CAC approved new purchase lot via Doug the Mailman. More details on those coins shortly.

It goes without saying that GFRC is on the hunt for new consignments and purchases. Supply continues to be tight as collectors are still in a buying and accumulation mode rather than selling. Each day sees between six to ten USPS boxes heading into the USPS system as orders continue unabated. It has become rote when dealers/collectors call on U.S. gold coins seeking discounts. My response is straightforward, "Pricing is firm for collectors and dealers as replacing sold coins in most challenging and typically at higher prices."

Today brings time on the JD2025R once the morning shipping is completed. I'm still waiting for Dave Wilkinson's gravel delivery but have other projects that need attention.

CAC Approved New Purchases to Consider

I feel fortunate to be showcasing the following gallery that highlights recent U.S. gold purchases. With paper gold pricing at \$1840/oz and climbing, the demand for U.S. gold with a bullion content continues. CAC approval premiums are also robust as collectors seek green bean approved gold for long term pricing security.

Please pay attention to the 1895-O PCGS AU55 CAC G\$10 and the 1900-O NGC MS65 CAC \$1 offerings. CAC populations for circulated 1895 New Orleans strikes are very low while most survivors are graded MS62. This date comes heavily abraded as a rule while this new offering is atypically nice. The 1900-O Morgan is absolutely gorgeous with vivid toning and thick frosty luster.

Please look for these offerings to reach the price list this evening. The usual First Rights of Refusal are recommended as offerings sell quickly.

CAC Approved New Purchases to Consider

1907 Liberty PCGS MS64 CAC G\$10



1895-O PCGS AU55 CAC G\$10

1911 PCGS MS63 CAC G\$10



1886-S PCGS MS63 CAC G\$5

1908 Motto PCGS MS62 G\$10
CAC \$1

1900-O NGC MS65



More CAC Approved Inventory Arrives

I continue to work tirelessly towards locating new inventories as maintaining a fresh CAC approved price list is an ongoing challenge that I will continue to confront. Following are five new purchases to consider. Photography has already been completed with image processing coming on Sunday.

1923 25c PCGS MS64 CAC - steely luster with 95% full head, light pewter gold

1924-D 25c PCGS MS64 OGH CAC - heavily frosted with claims to gem

1928-S 25c PCGS MS64 OGH CAC - heavily frosted and a twin with the 1924-D

1876 Trade \$1 PCGS MS63 CAC - gem eye appeal with natural rose and blues, a JBIN opportunity

1904 G\$2.5 PCGS MS66+ CAC - incredible frosted luster and hammered strike. An ideal type coin!

Wrapping Up The Blog

So ends today's Blog. I'm heading down to the natural spring for an early health walk following by morning shipping.

I will be in an out of the office throughout the day but will be checking phone messages and emails on a regular basis. Every order is precious as are satisfied clients.

Thanks for checking in at the Blog.

May 14, 2021

A Surprise "Top of the Ladder" Port Matilda Consignment and An Afternoon's Work With the JD2025R

Greetings on yet another beautiful southern Maine morning. Welcome to the Daily Blog!

It is 5:50 AM. The bright sun is illuminating the front landscaping and exposing the partially budded maples and oaks. Blue jays, chickadees, robins, and cardinals are frolicking about. Best is no signs of red squirrels or chipmunks...so far. After ten days of focused efforts, the homestead landscaping has been brushed, raked, and mowed. Everything appears neat and tidy. Remaining are the to be patched cracks in the driveway. This task is limited by the availability of asphalt patch at Home Depot.

Thursday brought a full ground assault on the backyard ant population with a new Field King backpack sprayer. Two gallons of pest control were loaded at a time and sprayed on areas where ant nests were so pervasive that grass was struggling to survive. The purchased six gallons did not go far. Today brings a second trip to Home Depot for another ten gallons to continue treating over 1.5 acres in the backyard. I'm determined to wipe out these pests and reseed the impacted areas.

Thursday afternoon was spent on the JD2025R with completion of the new Valley Road access way. The tractor is an amazing tool as experience is gained. More on that topic shortly.

There is great news concerning the GFRC business and fresh inventory. Collector grade consignments and new purchases are rolling in at a quick pace with volumes sufficient to take us into early June. GFRC is blessed to have the trust of its consignors along with important relationships with other "low key" dealers that form a solid supply chain. Being able to stock a 1000+ coin inventory in today's high demand market results from persistence and generating results. Let's review new news on a Friday morning.

Lizard King Collection Prices are Approved

I'm pleased to report that the Lizard King cavalcade offerings were quickly priced and approved by the consignor. There were minor adjustments on the \$2.5 gold prices that arrived late last evening. We are set to start listing these fresh offerings later today. Those with First Right of Refusals will received a courtesy email once their items are posted.

A Surprise "Top of the Ladder" Port Matilda Consignment

The Port Matilda Collection has seen an dramatic improvement during the last 3-4 years. GFRC has been a coach and the outlet for duplicates.

Thursday brought an unannounced consignment of "top of the ladder" offerings that will garner substantial attention. Our consignor is moving into U.S. gold in a big way and must sell some precious holdings to raise cash. No, this will not be an emergency sale. Top of the ladder coins will be priced strong. The wise collectors in the GFRC community should pay close attention to these six new offerings.

1846 25c - PCGS EF45 CAC, near-gem with rich gray patina over steely fields, ex. GFRC JBIN

1806 Draped 50c - O-115 PCGS EF40 CAC, gem with classic gray-rose patina, bright light viewing is tops! Ex, GFRC

1807 Capped 50c - O-111a Large Stars 50/20 PCGS BF25 CAC. Partial Bearded Goddess die crack, gem with natural gray patina

1808/7 50c - O-101 PCGS EF45 CAC, near-gem with golden gray patina and ample residual luster. Ex. Dick Graham

1893 50c - PCGS PR63CAM CAC, watery mirrors and eye appeal of a higher grade, an immediate JBIN offering

1904 50c - PCGS MS64 CAC OGH, gem with brilliant frosty luster and dancing cartwheels, untuned but so original!

Photography takes place today. Please keep watching the Blog for the upcoming Port Matilda client gallery posting.

Twin Lakes CAC Approved Lincolns Arrive Next Week

GFRC continues to expand its inventory profile with a roll out of CAC approved Mint State Lincoln cents. Why not? All pieces are graded a consistent PCGS MS64 with 90% being CAC approved. Dates range from 1914 through 1933.

These new offerings are in-house with photography takes place today.

Coming Soon - Cumberland County Liberty Seated Half Dollar Offerings

The demand for Liberty Seated half dollars appears insatiable of late. Coming soon is a 30 piece lot of fresh Liberty Seated halves that have been off the market for years. Again, please keep checking in at the Blog for more details.

An Afternoon's Work With the JD2025R

Thursday saw a full afternoon on the JD2025R. This tractor is downright incredible once mastering the various implements. The 260B backhoe is more capable than first imagined. This smaller tractor can do the work of a larger machine with patience and persistence as was learned yesterday. Stump and rock removal requires slow deliberate digging. One of the techniques learned from YouTube videos is to cut trees with a two to three foot stump remaining. The long stump acts as a leverage point for dislodging the roots and eventually pulling from the ground.

The Valley Road access way is essential done and ready for Dave Wilkinson's delivery of 16 yards of "gravel minus" mix for building a solid ramp at the roadway access point. The current drop-off at the roadway intersection would be problematic for a pickup truck/trailer combination loaded with 8' tree logs. Once the ramp is in place, the next Wilkinson load will be 3/4" crushed stone to line the path for preventing muddy conditions.

I've also ordered the Polar Trailer HD 1500 dual wheel cart from Amazon. Delivery is scheduled for May 20. Once the cart arrives and the access way is lined with stone, the project focus shifts to building the main access path down into the back 20 acres beyond the settler's stone wall. That path will see much tractor, excavator, and pickup traffic. Therefore, it is best to use 3/4" stone as a solid base covered with 1/4" fine gravel.

Valley Road Access Way - Uphill View



Valley Road Access Way - Downhill View



Global Financial News

The financial market thunderstorms have abated with bright sunny skies returning! Morning market futures are glowing a vivid green throughout the planet. Driving optimism was the CDC statement that vaccinated individuals don't generally need to wear masks anymore. The Federal Reserve also calmed markets indicating it needs more time to assess inflation risks. As a result, the 10 Year U.S Treasury bond yield dropped quickly to 1.63%.

Following are morning market futures courtesy of Seeking Alpha.

In Asia, Japan +2.3%. Hong Kong +1.1%. China +1.8%. India +0.1%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.6%. Paris +0.7%. Frankfurt +0.6%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.5%. S&P +0.7%. NASDAQ +1.1%.

Paper gold prices have also recovered at \$1834/oz. Bitcoin is back over the \$50,000 mark at \$50,577. WTI crude oil prices are holding steady at \$64.49/bbl.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Friday morning brings a huge amount of shipping including the last of the Newtown auction lots now that check payments have arrived.

I will be in an out of the office as the gravitational pull of the outdoors will see me spraying more ant nests along with digging up more rocks that I've mowed around since the late 1980s.

Thanks for checking in at the Blog. Please remember that GFRC is searching for a major collection for the GFRC Online Auctions platform.

May 13, 2021

The Lizard King Collection Cavalcade

Greetings on beautiful southern Maine morning and welcome to the Blog. Do we have a great show for you today!

Southern Maine weather will be ideal for working outdoors during the next 48 hours. In preparation, your host spent much of last evening along with early morning hours preparing a marvelous client gallery. Readers should enjoy today's presentation as Friday's Blog will be brief. More shortly...

The first rodent kill of the season is in. While rambling on during Wednesday discussion of price guides, a red squirrel was noted on the front stone wall. Red squirrels are bad dudes as compared to gray squirrels. Red squirrels are not welcomed at the homestead and must go before finding a way into the house and reeking havoc. There I was with bare feet and the 0.22 pistol loaded with a shot shell. We are parking the MDX near the stone wall to provide driveway access for the JD2025R. The red squirrel runs under the MDX and up along the wall to the back landscaping. I quietly approach the MDX in a crouch using the car as cover. The pistol is extended over the front hood with a clear short range shot at the critter. The shot knocked the red squirrel to the ground. Going one for one is a great way to start the red squirrel and chipmunk elimination season.

Today's Daily Blog headline presents a new term; cavalcade. Cavalcade - a dramatic sequence or procession

Yes indeed! Cavalcade is a fitting description for today's presentation of the latest Lizard King Collection consignment. But first, a few other thoughts. Let's start with a new Seth Godin blogpost. Godin drives home a key point. Those in denial have a closed mind. Those of us who are skeptical about forces influencing our lives are gutsy. Someone must ask hard questions.

Seth Godin Blogpost: Denialism is not skepticism

Resolutely refusing to accept a conventional understanding is a statement of certainty.

That's different from honest skepticism. The skeptic offers an open mind and is clear about what would be necessary to earn enthusiastic support.

The denialist, on the other hand, is sure. Now and forever. This certainty probably doesn't come from the matter being discussed. Instead, it's based on external factors, a story, a cultural connection, something that is fueled by the feeling that comes from refusing to examine the issue, not by honest inquiry.

Skepticism is gutsy, denialism is based on fear.

Unsolicited Input from Cleveland Collection Consignor

The following comment arrived on Wednesday after the Cleveland Collection consignor digest my ramblings on alternatives to price guides. He astutely points out that the GFRC [Sales Archive](#) presents a quality rating that helps explain the sale price basis.

Hi Gerry,

I now give more attention to your Sales Archive than any price guide on considering prices. I do also look at the PCGS price guide and the Heritage Auction Archives, but your Sales Archive has become my #1 source. The major advantage is that your Sales Archive best shows the impact of quality level on pricing.

The Lizard King Collection Cavalcade

GFRC is truly pleased to be showcasing a wonderful consignment from the Lizard King Collection. The offerings are grouped into two segments.

- Seven Liberty \$2.5 gold pieces with branch mints well represented. Secondly, the client gallery illustrates the varying colors of U.S. gold pieces. On display is green-gold (1840-C, 1850-C), orange-gold (1865-S, 1878-S), rose-gold (1860-C, 1899), and copper-gold (1899).

- A three piece circulated 1807 dated type set with crusty toning and a four piece 1875 Mint State type set plus 1872-S to represent the Liberty Seated half dime design.

Aren't these offerings nice? The eye appeal is all there but what about CAC approval? This was the first question to the consignor. The response was that all pieces had been through CAC review. If that is the case, this new Lizard King consignment typifies the second market tier that was mentioned in yesterday's Blog. There are many choice and gem coins in the market that don't have the coveted CAC green bean. As an example, please study the two 1899 G\$2.5 offerings. Both are graded MS64. I like the eye appeal of the rose colored example better than the CAC approved copper colored offering. Both pieces are top quality but one did not meet the subjective requirements for being awarded a green bean.

You are invited to carefully examine each of the high resolution images for fun and maybe a potential purchase.

The Lizard King offerings will be loaded into the COIN system and priced in the next 48 hours. Once pricing approval is granted, I hope to post these to the price list during the coming weekend.

Lizard King Collection - Early \$2.5 U.S. Gold Offerings!**1840-C PCGS EF40 G\$2.5****1850-C PCGS EF40 G\$2.5****1860-C NGC AU53 G\$2.5****1865-S PCGS AU55 G\$2.5****1878-S PCGS MS62+ G\$2.5****1899 NGC MS64 CAC G\$2.5****1899 PCGS MS64 G\$2.5**



Lizard King Collection - 1807 and 1875 Silver Type Offerings!

1807 JR-1 PCGS VF20 (Clipped Planchet at 3:00) 10C



1807 B-1 PCGS VG10 25C

1807 O-102 PCGS VF25 OGH 50C



1875-S BW Small S F-106 PCGS MS65 10C

1875-S BF-9 PCGS MS63 20C



1872-S BW PCGS MS65 H10C

1875 PCGS MS64 25C
50C

1875 PCGS MS62 OGH



Global Financial News

Inflation fears driving higher interest rates are weighing on equity markets. If that was not enough, one Elon Musk tweet has dragged down the Bitcoin market.

Welcome to a Thursday and a look at financial markets. Yesterday's CPI report scared the you know what out of traders. A 4.2% inflation rate looks really bad but one must stop to consider the comparison basis. Last April 2020, the U.S. was essentially shutdown due to Covid-19 with a depressed stock market and greatly reduced economic activity. As a result of the CPI report, the 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield jumped to 1.7% with fears of higher levels. U.S. equity markets took multi-point hits with the DJIA down to 33,587. Just a few days ago, the DJIA was challenging the 35,000 level.

During the overnight hours, one Elon Musk statement took down Bitcoin pricing. This Seeking Alpha article shares the details.

The crypto world erupted overnight after Tesla CEO Elon Musk said he would suspend vehicle purchases using Bitcoin. "We are concerned about rapidly increasing use of fossil fuels for Bitcoin mining and transactions, especially coal, which has the worst emissions of any fuel," he wrote in a tweet. "Cryptocurrency is a good idea on many levels and we believe it has a promising future, but this cannot come at a great cost to the environment."

Trading at about \$58K earlier on Wednesday, Bitcoin slumped to as low as \$47K, or roughly 30% below its all-time high just shy of \$65K. It's now changing hands at \$51K, while the decline has weighed on the broader crypto world by wiping away \$365B in market value. Musk still clarified that Tesla will not be selling any Bitcoin and "we intend to use it for transactions as soon as mining transitions to more sustainable energy." Tesla is also looking at other cryptocurrencies that "use <1% of Bitcoin's energy/transaction," a move that could be bullish for something like Ethereum, which uses less energy-intensive proof-of-stake.

Twitter blows up: "Unlike @elonmusk I am not flip flopping every other second about #bitcoin. You will have to rip my bitcoin from my cold dead hands," writes Dave Portnoy. "When Elon realizes that bitcoin mining is actually pushing the renewable energy industry forward, he will refresh position and #bitcoin will moon," added Cameron Winklevoss, while his brother Tyler declared: "Bitcoin mining is a massive subsidy for renewable energy." Another bite from Bitcoin Magazine: "[We've] suspended purchasing any Teslas. We are concerned about the rapid increase in bad arguments, especially energy FUD, from the company's CEO."

Following are morning market futures for what they are worth....

In Asia, Japan -1%. Hong Kong -1.7%. China -1%. India closed.

In Europe, at midday, London -2%. Paris -1.1%. Frankfurt -1.5%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.7%. S&P -0.5%. Nasdaq -0.4%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Given an optimum weather forecast for today and Friday, time will be spent working on the land after morning shipping is completed. If I don't respond quickly to emails or don't answer the phone, the reason should be apparent; I'm outdoors and taking time away from the GFRC business.

Today brings the first offensive against entrenched ants with a new Field King backpack sprayer. Afterwards, the JD2025R backhoe will be used to dig out stumps on the Valley Road access entrance. My goal is for the first Dave Wilkinson gravel delivery to take place early next week.

As always, if you wish to sell or consign coins, I'm all ears and will respond during the evening hours.

Thanks for stopping by at the Blog.

May 12, 2021

The Alternative to Numismatic Price Guides?

Greetings and welcome to the Blog on a Wednesday morning. Here comes another session of personal ramblings!

We are definitely not in Florida anymore! The Raymond morning temperature is a cool 40F requiring socks and long pants. But alas, another cloudy day will see a high of 61 degrees. The ongoing cloudy conditions are also impacting GFRC photography sessions. Consignments and new purchases are arriving and being queued for the rare occasion where bright sunshine is available. Don't get me wrong, I would not change a thing as love being back at the Maine homestead.

Today brings one of my least favorite life activities; going to the dentist office. My hygienist is a critical person and will always comment on improvement opportunities. Darn, I'm 65 and brush and floss twice per day with a Listerine rinse each time. But no, that is not good enough. A waterproof is recommended to further harden the gums. Have you tried using a waterpik without getting water all over yourself before bedtime? My suspicious nature is always on high alert in the dentist office. Are they benevolent or trolling for more insurance company billings?

GFRC sales are sailing along at a reasonable rate too! Tuesday brought the final posting of the Cleveland Collection duplicates and more new purchases. Sales response has been excellent.

Dr. Tenaflly is certainly correct! His prescription for more time on the JD2025R is working. There is a direct correlation between outdoor landscaping work and reduced finger pain. However, the Blog will go on as I can't imagine starting a day without rambling for a few hours.

Sorry, but there are no image galleries for today's edition. Therefore let's ramble on about the alternative to price guides.

The Alternative to Numismatic Price Guides?

Why do we have numismatic price guides in the first place? Several companies have made small fortunes publishing paper price guides for a living. The Grey Sheet (CDN) and Coin Values (Coin World) are two examples.

The response to this self posed question is simple. Most dealers and collectors lack the experience to understand what coins are worth in the numismatic marketplace. Since most people in the numismatic industry lack value knowledge, the price guides were created to bring value insights towards buying/selling self confidence. That is the straight truth. If you

are attempting to be a numismatic industry participant, a casual collector or vest pocket dealer, the price guides are critical as a road-map.

Several clients have responded to my request for Blog topics. The common theme was which of today's popular price guides are the most accurate? Frankly, that is the wrong question to be asking.

The more optimum question to be asking is how can I become more knowledgeable with respect to valuing coins?

I'm a big believer in self accountability. That should be clear to long time Blog readers. Self accountability means taking steps, making mistakes, and driving towards ongoing self improvement.

Self accountability and relying on price guides are diametrically opposite. When one relies on price guides, the responsibility for valuing coins moves to another individual or company. When asking me to comment on the "best price guides", the point about self accountability is missed.

Valuing coins is a complex activity as there are a host of parameters to consider; some are dynamic which makes the task even more challenging.

I've previously discussed the tiered nature of today's numismatic market within the Blog. There are the top premium coins, the coins that are choice but will not be CAC approved, the average coins with one issue or another, and finally the molested coins with a variety of issues. I see four tiers in today's market.

Adding to the challenge is a long history of Third Party Grading and their "got it right" and "mistakes". The market is loaded with overgraded coins and junk. Just walk a regular bourse floor for a quick education on TPG variability.

Finally, the numismatic market moves through demand cycles. If the U.S. economy is hot with collectors having large amounts of disposable income, coin prices will increase due to demand. The opposite is true if the economy is in a recession. Those record prices generated during a hot economy are in the history books as a point of reference only. Try selling coins in a weak market, what happens? Available prices are down, sometime way down for the lower tiered coins as those suffering a personal financial crisis must sell at any price.

Where am I going with all this? I'm trying to explain why the correct question to be asking is *how can I become more knowledgeable with respect to valuing coins?*

Let's take the case of GFRC. I handle roughly 350 coins per month across early silver type, some 20th Century denomination, and a growing amount of U.S. gold. Each day brings the need to value coins for buying and selling. There must be a keen understanding of the "current" marketplace and what collectors are willing to pay for a coin. Add in the four previously mentioned tiers as there are collectors operating within each of those tiers. Buying coins on a sight unseen basis is a fool's errand. Even with images, pricing coins will bring mistakes.

What is my secret for valuing coins? There are three approaches that are executed in an integrated manner to bring about a pricing decision.

- First is dealing in coins at selected market tiers. In the case of GFRC, I focus on top premium coins (top tier that is mostly CAC approved) and the choice tier where coins are close to being CAC approval candidates. If staying range bound in those tiers, certain price guides become credible as a baseline. My go to price guides are the CAC website and CoinFacts with embedded PCGS prices. Those guides are a starting point however and are not taken at face value.

- The second approach is studying the coin itself, with a collector's mindset, and attempting to determine its desirability in the context of the aforementioned price guides. Check auction records as much as possible as an alternative valuation source. The GFRC [Sales Archive](#) continues to become more useful for valuing coins sold by GFRC. If a coin warrants a GFRC gem quality rating, a premium above the guides will be applied as demand will be intense from knowledgeable collectors. If a coin is choice, historical sales and current price guides will lead to a pricing decision. If a coin is just average but with a CAC sticker, I will probably position it below the CAC guide number.

- Finally, the third approach is studying CAC and TPG populations. By paying close attention to population reports, one can assess if a coin is underrated or overrated at current price guide levels. The price guides are not the end all. For example, the CAC price guide valued the recently purchased 1869-S PCGS MS67 CAC dime at \$8120! That was downright incorrect due to lack of data. Once I purchased the piece for \$25850 and submitted the receipt to John Albanese, he promptly increased the CAC guide to \$26,400. The motto to the story? View price guide with skepticism and study CAC approved or TPG graded populations. There are a host of inaccuracies embedded within price guides that must be overcome when pricing coins.

Ok, I've rambled long enough on this topic. In summary, there is not a magic bullet price guide. Astute collectors and dealers take the time to become self accountable with respect to pricing coins at current market levels. That skill requires much time and effort, probably more than 95% of modern day collectors are willing to commit. Therefore, the "best price guide" question continually appears.

Global Financial News

U.S. equity markets had a down day on Tuesday but we are still above the 34,000 for the DJIA. The financial media is in a tizzy due to inflation fears, higher market volatility and a growing shortage of gas and diesel fuel on the East Coast. Those financial writers have shifted blame for recent big tech weakness from the 10 Year U.S. treasury bond yield to inflation fears. Frankly, we are still in good shape investment wise.

Global market futures are mixed to start another day with the NASDAQ continuing to show big tech weakness.

In Asia, Japan -1.6%. Hong Kong +0.8%. China +0.6%. India -1%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.8%. Paris +0.1%. Frankfurt +0.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.3%. S&P -0.6% . NASDAQ -0.6% .

Paper gold continues to consolidate at its new \$1834/oz level. WTI crude oil prices continue to rise with the morning quote at \$65.70/bbl. Bitcoin is range bound at the \$53,000 - \$58,00 level.

The all important 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield stands at 1.61% which is flat for the past week.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today's top priority is coin photography. The Lizard King consignment is here along with another new purchases lot. The Blog requires coin galleries as my fingers cannot tolerate long ramblings as was done today.

Thanks again for being regular Daily Blog readers.

Consignments are being solicited! Please don't forget GFRC if wishing to sell some coins or an entire collection.

May 11, 2021

The JD2025 Gets a Set of Teeth and Progress on New Valley Road Entrance





No Buyer's Fee + Flexible Reserves

**GFRC
ONLINE
AUCTIONS**



Integrated Auction & Retail Sales

**GFRC Online Auctions Open
for Summer 2021 Collection Offerings**

Gerry Fortin 207-329-9957
gerry@seateddimevarieties.com

Greetings on a Tuesday morning and welcome to another session of personal and numismatic rambling. I'm pleased that you took the time to stop by.

The Tenafly Collection consignor said it best concerning my ailing fingers.

I'm no doctor, but I'm prescribing JD2025R therapy to get away from the keyboard and get outside...Tom

It is readily apparent that keyboard and mouse over usage are the root cause of my swollen index and middle fingers. Once back at the Maine homestead, I've made a commitment to myself that the hours between 1:00 to 6:00 PM will be

away from the laptop. That restraint has already started to show signs of symptom mitigation.

Luckily, the alternative to working around the clock at GFRC is spending time *on the land*. Time *on the land* brings about a mindset that is opposite the instantaneous self gratification culture that is being purported via social media. Time *on the land* is a personal endeavor; a relationship between man and nature. One quickly realizes that rocks, insects, and plants can be captivating subjects if we slow down lives to take notice. An understanding of our role as stewards also emerges as nature moves glacially as compared to digital activities.

The JD2025 Gets a Set of Teeth

One of the first upgrades for the new JD2025R has been a set of loader teeth. Those were installed yesterday and promptly put to the test as the lower portion of the new Valley Rd access path was cleared. The Heavy Hitch tooth-bar is easy to install. One slides the bar onto the loader and tightens seven set screws with a 3/8" Allen wrench. No loader drilling is required! The teeth increase the front loader digging abilities along with being able to carry larger loads IE. large rocks. Following is the green machine modeling its new teeth.

JD2025R with Heavy Hitch Tooth-bar



Progress on New Valley Road Entrance

Once the JD had its new teeth, I went to work digging out the lower portion of the new Valley Road entrance. Smaller trees and brush had been cut with the Ryobi pole saw during the weekend. The next step was stump and rock removal and widening the path. Below is a progress image image taken this morning with dark cloudy conditions. Look carefully at the center to see a car passing by at the top of Ledge Hill. This is the end destination. A clump of birch trees in front of the car will be taken down today as the next step. Once the basic path is in place, it's width will be expanded to the left. The right side will be maintained as a small treed buffer next to our neighbor's property. The end goal is an access "road" for pickup/trailers to remove cut wood from the back 20 acres along with incoming trail lining 1/4" stone gravel.



Yesterday's highlight was digging out a 500-600 lb granite boulder with the 260B backhoe. Once out of the ground, the challenge was picking up the rock with the front loader and transporting to the settler's stone wall. I pushed the rock up against a large oak tree and was able to get under the boulder with the Heavy Hitch teeth. Let's keep the progress in context; several hours of effort by a novice tractor operator.

More updates and images will be published as progress is made in the coming days. Yes, Tenafly! The JD2025R is excellent therapy for my ailing fingers.

GFRC Buys Another CAC Approved Lot

Monday morning brought another small new purchase deal. Included in the lot are three CAC approved PCGS MS64 Standing Liberty quarters, an 1876 PCGS MS63 CAC Trade dollar, and a wonderful gold type coin; 1904 PCGS MS66+ CAC \$2.5 gold piece. I'm on a mission to continually stock the GFRC CAC approved price list with fresh offerings.

This lot along with the Lizard King consignment will nicely augment the GFRC price list in the coming days.

Global Financial News

Pessimism reigns this morning in the financial news media. Monday brought a retreat from last week's closing record highs so it is best for Seeking Alpha to once again blame rising 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yields for the sliding NASDAQ. This storyline gets old but no one appears to be telling the Seeking Alpha writers. Here is a taste of today's Seeking Alpha opening headline and commentary.

Look Out Below

A flurry of inflation jitters clobbered tech stocks on Monday as the NASDAQ dropped 2.4% for its worst day since March. **The yield on the 10-year Treasury note also rose 3 bps to 1.6% - hitting growth names that depend on low rates to fuel their expansions** - while the DJIA snapped a 5-session winning streak after pushing above the 35,000 milestone. Things don't look better this morning, with NASDAQ futures off 1.4% and weighing on the broader market. Contracts linked to the Dow and S&P 500 are 0.6% and 0.9% lower, respectively, while most of Europe and Asia are also in the red.

Time to buy puts? Shares of semiconductor companies were among the biggest decliners, along with cloud companies, while Big Tech stocks came under pressure. Facebook is down 2% premarket to \$300/share, after tumbling 4% on Monday, while Tesla slid another 3.5% to \$606/share after sinking 6.5% in the previous session. The plunge is also weighing on Cathie Wood's ARK Innovation ETF - in which Tesla is the top holding - as the notable growth fund slipped another 3% premarket to the \$100 level (it fell 5% on Monday and is off 35% from its peak).

Meanwhile, prices are rising everywhere. Some are tied to commodities, which are getting scooped up at a record pace as the

global economy emerges from the coronavirus pandemic. Consumer products are rising for the same reason, but have also been affected by supply chain shortages and logistical logjams. While some spikes could be temporary, like gasoline futures that whipsawed due to the closure of the Colonial Pipeline, economists hope the same will occur for the broader industry as supply moves to match demand.

In Asia, Japan -3.1%. Hong Kong -2.2%. China +0.4%. India -0.7%.

In Europe, at midday, London -2.3%. Paris -2.1%. Frankfurt -2.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow -0.6%. S&P -0.9%. NASDAQ -1.4%.

Those who have moved monies into commodities as an equity market hedge should be at ease. Paper gold has climbed to \$1840/oz. Crude oil is flat at \$64.48/bbl.

The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield is essentially flat at 1.61%. Could it be that Big Tech is over valued at current levels and requires a near term correction?

The following Seeking Alpha article illustrates the danger of Big Tech to society. I could not believe what I was reading.

Instagram for kids?

A group of 44 state and territory attorneys general is urging Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to abandon plans to launch a version of Instagram for children under 13. The AGs, led by New York State's Letitia James, contend that "social media can be detrimental to children for myriad reasons and that Facebook has historically failed to protect the welfare of children on its platforms." Shares of Facebook ended the session yesterday down 4%, but that also came against the backdrop of a broader tech sell-off.

Flashback: In March, Facebook confirmed it was working on an "Instagram Kids" product version to tap the under-13 market that can't use regular Instagram due to federal privacy regulations. Facebook had launched a Messenger Kids application in 2017 - a version of its Messenger product tied to parents' Facebook accounts. But Messenger Kids contained a glitch that allowed children to circumvent restrictions and join group chats with strangers, according to the AGs.

"Without a doubt, this is a dangerous idea that risks the safety of our children and puts them directly in harm's way and in the paths of predators," James declared. "There are too many concerns to let Facebook move forward with this ill-conceived idea, which is why we are calling on the company to abandon its launch of Instagram Kids."

Wrapping Up The Blog

The 8:00 AM Blog publishing time has arrived and best to run the Dreamweaver spell checker followed by hitting the upload button.

Today brings Newtown Collection auction sale Quick Ships to most bidders. Diane has laid out about 20 USPS priority boxes in the office. Once I am back from a health walk to the natural spring, the balance of the morning will be printing labels and writing receipts. All GFRC Online Auction sale bidders received their invoice as of Monday noon.

Need to sell some coin? I'm all ears!

Wishing to part with a major collection? GFRC Online Auction is a fantastic alternative for moving through an initial auction followed by regular price list sales. Clients love the no buyer's fee GFRC auctions and one standard commission rate for all selling activities.

This evening will bring the balance of the Cleveland Collection posting to the price list along with more new purchases.

The Black Point \$3 Gold offerings are queued next for image processing. Several pieces were shipped to CAC yesterday. Once CAC approval status is known, I will showcase this collection in the Blog.

Thanks again for making the Blog a regular part of your day.

May 10, 2021

GFRC Breaks Through the \$8,000,000 Consignor Proceeds Milestone and Superb New Consignment from Lizard King Collection



A dark red and black advertisement for GFRC Online Auctions. On the left is a white silhouette of a person's head and shoulders. To the right of the silhouette, the text "GFRC ONLINE AUCTIONS" is written in large, bold, white letters. Below this text are three coins: a silver dime, a gold piece, and a silver dollar. Above the coins, it says "No Buyer's Fee + Flexible Reserves" in white. Below the coins, it says "Integrated Auction & Retail Sales" in white. At the bottom, in a black section, it says "GFRC Online Auctions Open for Summer 2021 Collection Offerings" in white, followed by "Gerry Fortin 207-329-9957" and "gerry@seateddimevarieties.com" in white.

Greetings and welcome to the Daily Blog as the mid-May time frame is upon us. How I wish to slow down the clock given all that needs to be done.

Southern Maine spring season is arriving later this year. The driveway maple and roadside oaks continue to bud with their full leafy bloom expected by the coming weekend. Morning temperatures is a cool 47F with showers for the next few hours. Believe me, I am not complaining as would much rather be at the Maine homestead rather than the hot and humid conditions in Venice. Chipmunks have also been limited. This is a positive development.

Sunday brought notable progress with spring clean-up tasks along with cutting the secondary access path to Valley Rd. The annual driveway road sand sweeping was completed plus raking downed branches on the front lawn. Moth balls were placed by the front entrance to discourage chipmunks from gaining a foothold in that area. Yesterday also brought the first usage of the JD2025R backhoe to dig out smaller stumps. It was not the prettiest sight as I learned the backhoe controls and digging motion. Like everything else in life, practice makes perfect.

Dave Wilkinson will be stopping by during the next 48 hours to view the secondary access path project. He will recommend the material grade for building a compacted access ramp off the roadway. Key is the ability to have Dave back up his 16 yard truck into the path with a full load of stone or fine gravel mix. We don't wish to see his rear tires sinking into the loam. Surrounding trees must be cleared to allow Dave to lift and dump the load. My challenge is to build the access ramp with the JD2025R once material is secured.

I'm wholly focused on the access path project as a first step for securing deliver of fine stone gravel necessary to build-up or line the walking trails. There are two wet trail areas that will need a fair amount of of 3/4" stone for filling in those areas. Dave is scheduled to return with his excavator during the first half of June to cut the northeast and northern trails along with opening the natural spring #2.

GFRC Breaks Through the \$8,000,000 Consignor Proceeds Milestone

The weekend brought several high priced coin sales along with the closing of the Newtown Collection auction sale. The gem Osprey Collection 1799 PCGS AU55 CAC \$10 gold piece found its way into the New England Collection consignor's gold holdings. This was a complex deal including GFRC buying out the remaining Seated dollars from this individual. Those Seated dollars have been re-priced and will be found at the top of the [30 Day Price List](#).

Congratulations go out to the New England Collection for such a lofty acquisition.

1799 BD-5 PCGS AU55 CAC G\$10



For those that are new to the GFRC website and price list, the [Consign](#) link features ongoing reporting of the number of consignor coins sold by GFRC along with payments made to consignors. As of this morning, GFRC has paid out \$8,061,267 to consignors since inception.

The jump from \$7,000,000 to \$8,000,000 was fast paced due to the GFRC Online Auctions platform and a consistent flow of auction events. Regular consignors sales have also been robust during the Covid-19 stay-at-home time frame. GFRC is presently searching for a collection to be showcased by Online Auctions sales.

Join our Service-Oriented Consignment Program

Value Provided Since Establishment	
Consignor Coins Sold:	9,267
Payments to Consignors:	\$8,061,267
% of Total Sale Price to Consignors:	91%
Median Days until Sold:	19

Superb New Consignment from Lizard King Collection

The Lizard King Collection consignor might be an obscure name for those outside of the U.S. gold \$2.5 realm. Discussions have been underway for the transfer of a substantial consignment lot. I'm pleased to report that the lots ships today. Following is an itemized list (shipment invoice) of the forthcoming coins for your consideration. First Right of Refusals are welcomed.

Type	Denom.	Year	Grade	Cert #
PCGS	10C	1807	VF20	30750367
PCGS	25C	1807	VG10	33010774
PCGS	50C	1807	VF25	9863868Draped Bust
PCGS	H10C	1872-S	MS65	6723078Mintmark Below
PCGS	10C	1875-S	MS65	33095089Mintmark Below
PCGS	20C	1875-S	MS63	21344019
PCGS	25C	1875	MS64	3971493
PCGS	50C	1875	MS62	9333611
PCGS	\$2.50	1840-C	XF40	21382386
PCGS	\$2.50	1850-C	XF40	34128087
NGC	\$2.50	1860-C	AU53	626289-003
PCGS	\$2.50	1865-S	AU55	31445699
PCGS	\$2.50	1878-S	MS62+	18749498
PCGS	\$2.50	1899	MS64	21355542
NGC	\$2.50	1899	MS64	1620655-003 CAC

Global Financial News

A new trading week starts with an oil pipeline crisis. Foreign hackers have penetrated the Colonial Pipeline computer system bringing about a shut down of energy supplies to the East Coast. The following Seeking Alpha article brings us up-to-date.

The U.S. government has declared a state of emergency to keep fuel supply lines open following the shutdown of Colonial Pipeline [on Friday](#). The 5,500-mile conduit, whose owners include Shell Midstream Partners (NYSE:SHLX) and others, carries 2.5M barrels a day to the East Coast, or 45% of its supply of diesel, gasoline and jet fuel. While Colonial is working toward a

restart of operations along the key artery, some smaller lateral lines between terminals and delivery points are now operational. In the meantime, the Biden administration is allowing drivers that transport fuel to work extra hours, while oil products could be permitted to be shipped in tankers up to New York.

Recap: Hackers stole almost 100 gigabytes of data from Colonial Pipeline's networks, before locking its computers with ransomware and demanding payment. Multiple sources have confirmed that a criminality gang called DarkSide was behind the attack, and some evidence has emerged linking the group to Russia or elsewhere in Eastern Europe. The White House also formed a task force to probe the pipeline breach, and the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency is coordinating with Colonial Pipeline.

Fear of shortages: U.S. gasoline futures jumped more than 3% to \$2.217 a gallon as trading reopened for the week, while WTI crude futures rose 1.3% to as high as \$65.76/bbl. Besides connecting refineries to more than 50M people, the pipeline network serves major U.S. airports, including Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson. While the U.S. Department of Energy could tap its reserve of 1M barrels of diesel fuel in the Northeast, it's "little more than a Band-Aid," ClearView Energy Partners said in a research note.

This event should not be taken lightly by the U.S. population. If hackers can bring down a major energy pipeline, what other targets could be on the horizon that could disrupt our present living standards? Digital life is wonderful until it is not.

Morning market futures have not reacted. U.S. markets will open at 9:30 AM mostly flat.

In Asia, Japan +0.6%. Hong Kong -0.1%. China +0.3%. India +0.6%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.1%. Paris -0.2%. Frankfurt -0.2%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.3%. S&P flat. NASDAQ -0.3%.

Paper gold has convincingly punched through the \$1800 pricing level and is quoting at \$1837/oz. This breakout will continue to elevate physical gold demand with minimal supply for potential buyers.

WTI Crude oil is quoting at \$65.18/bbl. Bitcoin is priced at \$58,033. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield is flat at 1.58%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

Today brings invoice generation for the Newtown Collection winning lots. That and a heavy shipping workload will keep the GFRC office staff busy for most of the day.

Several of the Cleveland Collection Liberty Seated dime offerings have also reached the price list as of last evening. The balance will appear later today.

Tuesday's Blog will bring a discussion of price guides based on feedback from several readers.

Thanks for stopping by at the Blog.

May 9, 2021

A Wild Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Finale

GFRC New Purchases Gallery

and

Happy Mother's Day





No Buyer's Fee + Flexible Reserves

**GFRC
ONLINE
AUCTIONS**

Integrated Auction & Retail Sales

**GFRC Online Auctions Open
for Summer 2021 Collection Offerings**

Gerry Fortin 207-329-9957
gerry@seateddimevarieties.com

Greeting on Mother's Day and welcome to the Daily Blog. Happy Mother's Day to those who might be checking in on these numismatic ramblings.

A cool morning launches another southern Maine day. Skies are mostly clear with a light breeze. The weather forecast calls for the afternoon temperature to reach 61F with sunny skies. It is a certainty that I will be spending the late morning and most of the afternoon working on the land. There are two priorities for today; spraying the back lawn ant infestation and the initial usage of the JD2025R backhoe.

Since Monday and Tuesday will be wet weather days, GFRC office activities will be scheduled for the beginning of next week. Newtown auction invoices will be issued on Monday. *Quick Ships* will commence of Tuesday.

A Wild Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Finale



**GFRC
ONLINE
AUCTIONS**

Newtown Collection

**"Ultimate Liberty
Seated Half Dollar
Set Sale"**

Starts May 1, 9:00 PM ET
Closes May 8, 9:00 PM ET

Saturday evening brought a wild CAC approved finale for the Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale. CAC approved Seated halves brought prices at or beyond my expectations. The Newtown Collection consignor sent along the following thoughts after the sale's completion.

I couldn't be happier. The auction format is a winner. Two thirds of the coins met reserve pricing. You've secured substantial premiums over reserve pricing on several of the halves. Both higher and lower priced coins sold. I'm confident we'll find buyers for the others in short order.

Great job! Thank you.

Indeed, the GFRC Online Auctions platform has proven itself to be popular with collectors. For consignors, they enjoy the marketing activities associated with a traditional auction coupled with the upside potential of their finest offerings. Unsold lots are promptly transition to the regular price list and Collectors Corner for another round of sales activity.

The Newtown sale brought a 67% sales rate. 35 of the 52 lots met reserves and are heading into community collections. Total sales amounted to \$35,505, a reasonable number given the consignment size.

This morning brings the auction accounting and COIN system update. Bidder invoices will be issued on Monday as mentioned in the opening comments. Once all bidders have been invoiced via email, the unsold lots will transfer to the GFRC price lists and the Newtown auction catalog will disappear.

Most bidders are well known to me which leads to an extensive usage of *Quick Ships* come Tuesday. We are already facing a substantial amount of Monday morning shipping plus a CAC submission.

Now that the Newtown Sale is in the history books, GFRC is seeking other clients who wish to utilize the auction platform when consigning a substantial lot. I would be pleased to discuss possibilities during the coming week.

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Highlights

Gem 1868 WB-102 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C - Realized \$3,000



Gem 1871-CC WB-1 PCGS EF40 CAC 50C - Realized \$6,725



Near-Gem 1877-CC WB-13 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C - Realized \$1,777



Cleveland Collection Liberty Seated Dime Duplicates Status

While composing today's Blog edition, the Cleveland Collection consignor has approved my suggested pricing. Look for the Cleveland Collection Liberty Seated dimes to start posting to the price list this evening. There are many First Rights of Refusal. Those with FRoRs will received a courtesy email once their lots are posted.

GFRC New Purchases Gallery

I'm continually searching for new offerings to maintain a fresh price list. Quality and competitive prices are paramount.

Following is a nice mixture of new purchases for your consideration. I'm pleased to be adding fresh Barber coinage and Standing Liberty quarters to inventory. Price list postings will take place during the Tuesday/Wednesday time frame.

GFRC New Purchases Gallery

1907 PCGS MS63 CAC G\$10

1924 PCGS MS65 G\$20



1911-S PCGS MS64 10C

1926 PCGS MS63 OGH 25C

1926-D PCGS MS62 OGH



1912-D PCGS VF25 50C

1915-S PCGS VF20 50C

1897 PCGS MS64 G\$2.5



Wrapping Up The Blog

Let's end the Blog at this point as my fingers are bothering me. There is much COIN database updating work to get done in the next few hours before heading onto the land.

Thank-you for checking in at the Blog!

May 8, 2021

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Closes at 9:00 PM and Natural Spring #1 Water Inlets

 GFRC ONLINE AUCTIONS		Newtown Collection "Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar Set Sale" Starts May 1, 9:00 PM ET Closes May 8, 9:00 PM ET
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Greeting and welcome to the Daily Blog on a Saturday morning.

Another southern Maine starts with a cool morning temperature of 37F with the day's high only reaching 55 degrees. On a positive note, the skies are forecasted to be bright and sunny. I'm presently uncertain on the day's plans after spending a fair amount of Friday working outdoors. Time away from the laptop is helping the problematic fingers along with accomplishing several spring clean-up projects.

A huge shout out goes to the new generation of battery powered pole saws. Thursday brought the purchase of a Ryobi 40V cordless pole saw from a local Home Depot store. I could not be more pleased with the performance, light weight, and battery life when conducting broken branch cuttings. A pole saw can easily substitute for a chain saw when working with smaller tree cutting chores. I used the Ryobi to cut an initial path to Valley Road on the left hand side of the property (the new equipment and material access entrance). Key is the high chain speed that makes slicing through soft wood trees like a knife moving through butter. If this small Ryobi pole saw is that great, I can't wait to received a newly ordered Echo 58V chain saw. Gone will be the days of mixing oil and gas and the ongoing start-up issues with gas powered chain saws. You can count me as an advocate of battery powered outdoor equipment moving forward due to their quiet nature and ease of use.

Along with sawing broken branches and path clearing, Friday saw the first mowing of the back yard plus moving branch cutting to a substantial burn pile with the JD2025. Each day brings more JS2025R learnings and familiarity. I've yet to use the backhoe as still mastering the front loader and grapple. Once again, the JD2025R is far from a "toy". Working with the tractor requires the utmost in concentration since the Maine homestead is mostly sloping property.

There is little to report on the numismatic front since giving my fingers a break. I did manage to conduct a small deal that will bring three lovely PCGS MS64 CAC Standing Liberty quarters to the price list.

Today's GFRC goal is securing pricing approval for the Cleveland Collection's Liberty Seated dimes and moving forward with price list loading. The First Right of Refusal response has been excellent with about half of the coins potential sold.

Natural Spring #1 Water Inlets

Each morning brings a health walk to the natural spring immediately after uploading each Blog edition. The Ryobi pole saw will accompany me during today's walk as there are several down branches and smaller trees that need removal.

Bright sunny skies prevailed during yesterday's visit to the natural spring. I could not resist the moment and took several cellphone images to share. Below left is a cool image with the surrounding trees reflecting in the pool while the overall image is washed out due to the intense sunlight through leafless trees. On the right is a reasonable image of the two spring inlets in the pool. Please look in the middle of the pool and focus on the grayish depressions surrounded by darker silt. Clicking on the images provides access to high resolution versions.

Natural Spring #1 Water Inlets



I'm now referencing the initial natural spring as "#1" since this summer brings the opening of the much larger #2 spring. That spring is flowing substantial amounts of water across an 8' stream. The challenge is accessing and clearing the #2 spring due to being positioned in a huge rock field. Dave Wilkinson's mid size excavator will be challenged with that project.

CAC Price Guide Updated for 1869-S PCGS MS67 CAC Seated Dime Purchase

I'm pleased to report that John Albanese has updated the CAC Price Guide for the record setting purchase of the 1869-S PCGS MS67 CAC Liberty Seated dime.

During the past week, I sent John a cellphone image of the 1869-S dime and the Great Collections invoice documenting the \$25,850 purchase price. Within two days, the CAC price guide was updated from \$8,120 to \$26,400 based on the evidence provided. Why not? It is important for a price guide to be current with prices realized, especially the CAC Price Guide.

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar Sale* Closes at 9:00 PM

The Newtown Collection auction sale finale arrives at 9:00 PM this evening. Please check your calendar for a GFRC Online Auctions link visit during the final hour of bidding. I will be certainly watching the closing bidding with Google Analytics.

As predicted, Friday brought renewed bidding at expected levels. I'm please to report that 26 of the 52 lots have met reserves. Five lots have multiple bids. The two "hot" lots as showcased next. The 1877-CC PCGS AU58 CAC half should realize \$1300 based on my assessment of the CDN CAC price guide. Just two more bids will bring about that forecasted outcome.

1877-CC WB-13 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C - 5 Bids - High Bid \$1035



The gem original 1871-CC half is the Newtown Collection sale highlight and warrants careful inspection. Please visit the CAC price guide and population report to gain context for this offering. EF40 is pop 3, EF45 is pop 2, with AU50 being pop 1. There is single AU55 approved with a price guide number of \$12,300. If one considers the number of Liberty Seated half dollar collectors in the United States, these CAC population numbers are tiny to service the growing demand for the highest quality CAC green bean approved survivors. Don't be a slave to the guides! The guides are a guide only and will be updated as auction records are generated. Case in point is the 1869-S Liberty Seated dime PCGS MS67 CAC record that was increased from \$8120 to \$26400 this week.

Gem 1871-CC WB-1 PCGS 40 CAC 50C - 3 Bids - High Bid \$5152



Finally, there are still many great Newtontown Liberty Seated half dollars that are currently unattached. Today brings your last opportunity to add these to an advanced collection before they are posted to the GFRC price list and Collectors Corner on Sunday. We know from past GFRC Online Auctions that these lots will sell quickly once advertised on a broad marketplace like Collectors Corner.

GFRC Recommended Newtontown Collection Auction Lots

1840 WB-5 PCGS EF45 CAC 50C

1846 Med Date WB-8 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C



1849 WB-9 PCGS MS62 CAC 50C

1858-S WB-1 NGC AU58 50C



1864 WB-102 PCGS AU53 50C

1873-CC Arrows WB-3 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C



1880 PCGS MS64 CAC 50C

1890 WB-101 PCGS MS65 50C



Wrapping Up The Blog

So ends the GFRC ramblings for a Saturday morning. Good luck to Newtown Collections bidders!

I'm off to the natural spring for a cool morning health walk followed by the usual morning packaging and shipping.

Thank-you for stopping by the Blog on a regular basis.

May 7, 2021

Cleveland Collection's Liberty Seated Dime Duplicates Gallery Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Closes in 36 Hours and Working in the Homestead Front Yard with JD2025R

Greeting on a Friday morning and welcome to another Blog edition. Fingers are feeling a tad better this morning, therefore we will have a regular edition.

Much support and advice was shared by members of the GFRC community after announcing the difficulties with middle and index fingers on both hands. Supplements were a common theme plus using voice to text software. Diane made it clear that I am eating too many tomatoes on a daily basis which is known to cause inflammation. I just love salads piled with tomatoes. The Old Cedar Collection consignor is a doctor and called late Thursday afternoon for a chat. His conclusion was that the supplements that I am taking (fish oil, tumeric, glucosame/MSM) should help mitigate my symptoms. He also recommended Voltaren gel instead of Advil. The gel can be applied directly to the problematic fingers to relieve the pain.

A sincere thank-you goes out to everyone who sent along advice. I've not responded to many emails as of this morning but will try today. Again, I must attempt to limit the usage of my fingers in the near term.

Bottom line is that rest is needed for my aging hands. I spent most of Thursday off the laptop with extended Home Depot and Lowes shopping along with taking possession of a fantastic \$3 U.S. gold consignment at a secret Windham location. Afternoon brought spring clean-up in the front yard. More later in the Blog.

Cleveland Collection's Liberty Seated Dime Duplicates Gallery

The Cleveland Collection consignor is one of the most passionate Liberty Seated dime die variety collectors on the planet. He is the proud owner of my former 1839 PCGS EF45 CAC Pie Shattered Obverse dime.

Today brings a substantial release of Top 100 duplicates along with other rare die varieties. Several were purchased from GFRC (1856 Large Date and 1860 DDO). The balance are fresh offerings to the GFRC community.

There are many important dimes in the following client gallery with close inspection suggested. The 1853 No Arrows F-101a (heavily clashed obverse) warrants special attention given its super originality and CAC approved. Ditto for the 1860 Double Die Obverse that is a choice sweetheart from my collection. Looking deeper into the lot, I also see the rare 1886-S F-102 die pairing and an 1891 Double Die Obverse to enticed variety collectors.

I could go on and on with discussing these offerings but must limit the typing. Those who pursue Seated dimes and Top 100 Varieties can appreciate the significant of the Cleveland Collection consignment. These will be posted to the price list during the upcoming weekend. First Rights of Refusals are highly suggested as demand will be strong.

Cleveland Collection's Liberty Seated Dime Duplicates Gallery

1853 NA F-101a PCGS EF45 CAC 10C

1860 F-106 PCGS MS63 CAC 10C



1864 F-102a NGC AU55 10C

1866-S PCGS EF40 CAC 10C



1838 F-106a PCGS VF20 10C

1841 F-103 NGC AU58 10C
AU58 10C

1843/1843 F-102 PCGS



1846 F-101 PCGS F15 10C

1856 LD F-103 NGC AU58 10C
CAC 10C

1858-O F-101 PCGS EF40



1866-S F-103 PCGS VF30 10C

1868-S F-101a PCGS EF45 10C
CAC 10C

1879 F-102 PCGS MS62



1838 F-110a ANACS AU58 OWH 10C

1886-S F-102 PCGS VF35 10C
AU58 10C

1891 DDO F-109 PCGS



Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Closes in 36 Hours

The Newtown Collection sale has moved out of the quiet period and will start seeing the final round of bidding. The sale closes in roughly 36 hours depending when the Blog is being viewed.

23 lots presently have met posted reserves. As mentioned and illustrated in this week's Blog editions, that are a host of super offerings that are still available for initial bidding. Some collectors love to bid at the last hour of an auction to ensure that their bids are kept secret until closing time.

Yesterday brought a question from a potential bidder that warrants being shared today. The essence of the question focused on placement of maximum bids and how the GFRC auction software handles maximum bids. The long and short response is that GFRC clients can place a substantial maximum bid with confidence. The software will bid on the client behalf only using bidding increments as published in the Terms & Conditions. As a reminder, the bidding increments are:

\$1 - \$299	\$20
\$300 - \$499	\$25
\$500 - \$999	\$50
\$1,000 - \$1,999	\$100
\$2,000 - \$4,999	\$250
\$5,000 - \$9,999	\$500
\$10,000 - \$20,000	\$1,000
\$20,000 - \$49,999	\$2,500
>\$50,000	\$5,000

Rest assure that GFRC will NEVER take a bidder's maximum bid without an underbidder. I'm 100% honest!

Working in the Homestead Front Yard with JD2025R

As mentioned earlier, much of Thursday afternoon brought front yard clean-up activities. It was a windy day and ideal for working outdoors without being overwhelmed by seasonal black flies.

First on the spring clean-up agenda is brushing road sand off the driveway and lawn along with repairing damaged caused by winter snow plowing. Sure, using the JD2025R front loader bucket was overkill for collecting and transporting road sand. In past years, I must always be careful when sweeping at the top of the driveway entrance as road traffic is constant with some drivers speeding along. I placed the JD2025 at the edge of the road which brought considerable attention and protection from the road traffic. No one wishes to hit a two ton tractor...

Yes, I've not removed the plastic seat covering yet for those readers who click on the images to view the high resolution versions. I will order protective seat covers today on Amazon. Once the seat covers arrive, the plastic will come off.

This machine is a beast upon starting to clear the new access path to the property before calling it a day. Once in 4WD, the Rim Guard filled rear tires and front wheels dig into the ground. This afternoon brings more yard clean-up with a new Ryobi pole saw and transporting branches with the grapple.

Working in the Homestead Front Yard with JD2025R





Global Financial News - Paper Gold has Broken Through the \$1800 Level

The DJIA and S&P 500 once again set new records on Thursday while the Big Tech NASDAQ continues to languish. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield dropped to 1.58% and negates financial writer attempts to tie weak Big Tech performance to rising long bond interest rates. I'm to the point of not reading half of the Seeking Alpha commentary as it appears to be contrived.

Noteworthy is that paper gold has broken through the \$1800/oz level with a morning quote of \$1820. This action will place even more demand on physical gold which is in very short supply.

The morning market futures indicate a favorable market open at 9:30 AM and the potential for more equity market records.

In Asia, Japan +0.1%, Hong Kong +0.1%, China -0.7%, India +0.5%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.7, Paris +0.3%, Frankfurt +1.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.3%, S&P +0.3%, NASDAQ +0.4%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

The final note of today's ramblings is an exciting new consignment that appeared during the overnight hours. The consignment is a Draped Bust and Liberty Seated coinage type set along with U.S. gold type. The grades and quality are top notch. This consignment will bring much needed reinforcements to the price list.

Thanks for checking in at the Blog. I hope that you've enjoyed today's edition.

May 6, 2021

Living with Tendinitis

and

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Quiet Period Ends Today

Greetings on a beautiful but cool southern Maine morning. Thank-you for checking in.

Many readers might be surprised with today's Blog headline given the ongoing flow of online compositions and quality GFRC coin images. Unfortunately, the constant usage of a keyboard and mouse have taken a toll on my fingers. Living with tendinitis began about four years ago. At first, the swelling and pain was limited to a single finger at a time. This was manageable including dealing with trigger finger events where a finger would painfully lock in place.

After much online research, I started taking a health supplement called Turmeric with Cucurmin. This supplement worked wonders for several years when taken daily. Sadly, even the Turmeric relief has been waning during the past few months. The swelling has moved into both hands including index and middle fingers. The magnitude of the issue was realized at last evening's dinner. I found it painful to cut a salmon patty with a fork. Just lifting a coffee cup with my right hand is painful as the Blog is typed out.

So far, I have avoided taking Advil for the pain. The pain is a feedback mechanism as to the progression of the joint issue and whether Turmeric can be employed to control the swelling. Rest time from ongoing numismatic writings and image processing is in order.

After Wednesday's dinner, I had two options. Either work a painful evening shift preparing Cleveland Collection images for today Blog, or head to the basement sound room to give my fingers a rest. The decision was obvious. With a slim consignment backlog, why push my fingers further?

Therefore today's Daily Blog edition will be brief. I am as disappointed as you. I thoroughly enjoy composing the Blog each morning and staying abreast of numismatic and financial market events.

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Quiet Period Ends Today

Today brings the final day of a typical GFRC Online Auctions "quiet period". For those new to GFRC auctions, the "quiet period" occurs from Monday through Thursday during a week long auction. Active and potential bidders take a break to assess the situation. Friday brings renewed attention followed by the auction crescendo on Saturday.

As of this morning, 22 of the 52 offered lots have met the reserve. There are many values remaining to be scooped up by knowledgeable collectors. Following are six offerings that should be acquired, plain and simple.

1840 WB-5 PCGS EF45 CAC 50C

1849 WB-9 PCGS MS62 CAC 50C



1859 WB-102 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C

1861-S WB-1 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C



1873-CC Arrows WB-3 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C

1880 PCGS MS64 CAC 50C



Wrapping Up The Blog

Thank-you for checking in at the Blog. My fingers definitely need a break.

May 5, 2021

Double Delight Arrivals on Tuesday

and Questions for Fresh Blog Content?

Greetings on a rainy Maine morning and welcome to another Blog edition. Thank-you for checking in!

Let's open today's edition with a shout out and congratulations to Len Augusburger for being named one of the 60 most influential people in the numismatic industry by the Coin World publication. His work at the Newman Numismatic Portal has become well recognized. Len has authored multiple books on numismatic topics including *Treasure in the Cellar*, *The Secret History of the First U.S. Mint* (with Joel Orosz), and *Truth Seeker: The Life of Eric P. Newman* (with Orosz and Burdette). Len's writing skills are often on display at the Daily Blog along with his authoritative lot descriptions for the GFRC Online Auctions platform.

GFRC is fortunate to have Len as a staff member. I look forward to more insightful guest blogposts from Len in the future along with ongoing support for upcoming auctions.

It did not take long to bring the Maine GFRC office back to full operation. Tuesday brought three USPS Express shipments plus the usual inflow of check payments. Most of the new AuburnNY Accordion Collection offerings have been posted to the price list and are in strong demand. Outgoing shipments have ramped to "normal" levels. The ongoing challenge is finding a balance between the GFRC workload and the many outdoor projects that I hope to accomplish. Undoubtedly, that balance will be found and shared with Blog readers via the Blog.

Double Delight Arrivals on Tuesday

John Deere 2025R Arrives

Tuesday was indeed a memorable day in a life.

While enjoying a regular salad lunch, Donny from Hall Implement called and indicated that the JD2025 would be delivered in 30 minutes. Of course, there was anticipation with the new tractor's appearance into the front yard. Donny arrived as forecasted with the tractor mounted with the Frontier grapple, a front 53" bucket, a 250 lb cement ballast block with receiver hitch, and a 500 lb Landpride grader.

Once the Hall Implement trailer left, I took the 2025R for a drive through the backyard and into the back acreage. Since the grapple was mounted to the tractor, several large rocks were loaded and transported to the settler's stone wall. A large broken pine tree branch was also lifted with the grapple and moved to the burn pile.

Let's set the record straight, the JD2025 may appear as an adult "toy". It is far from a toy, rather a serious piece of machinery that requires the utmost respect and operating caution. Since the Maine homestead is positioned on the side of a hill, one is driving a tractor on a near constant downward or upward sloping grade. This might not be evident when mowing the lawn but was immediately noted once on the tractor. Upward is fine, downward is not. Caution is paramount, especially when transporting a heavy load with the grapple or front loader.

An initial observation was the JD2025R's power and weight. Special R3 radial turf tires were ordered to minimize damage to existing lawns. A quick weight calculation brought the realization that one is operating a two ton tractor with much of the weight located on the rear axle and tires. Any sharp turns results in the back tires tearing up the lawn as I quickly realized. Though I was tempted to work with the backhoe, that opportunity was left to another day. Instead, the implements were moved away from the driveway and place under the sunroom. That alone was an adventure. One of my first needs is purchasing chains for movement of heavy items with the front loader.

Since being so focused and consumed with the initial usage, I completely forget to take photos for the Blog. There will be ample time in the coming days for this sharing.

Finest Known 1869-S PCGS MS67 CAC Seated Dime Arrives

If the arrival of the JD2025 was not special enough, early afternoon brought Postmaster Linda's first visit from the Raymond office. She was conducting regular USPS Express deliveries and had two packages for me. One was the 1869-S dime, while another brought a fresh new purchases deal.

Exhibiting self control, the two boxes were not opened until a fair amount of the AuburnNY Accordion lots were posted to the price list. *Clients come first* is a wise operating philosophy. By 4:00 PM, the packages were opened. OMG was all I could say with respect to the 1869-S dime.

Finest Known 1869-S Liberty Seated Dime

PCGS MS67 CAC OGH



Cellphone images under LED desk lamp - Gerry Fortin Rare Coins

Let's step back for a moment and understand why I am so thrilled to own this historical numismatic item.

For 25+ years, this dime has been off the market. It resides in a PCGS Gen 3.1 (1993-1998) old green holder which dates the certification time frame. CAC approval could not have come before 1996. Since the mid 1990s, this dime has been mysteriously stored out of sight and was not available to the great Eugene Gardner Collection. If coming to market after the turn of the 21st Century it would have been purchased by Tom Bender (current #1 Seated Dime set on the PCGS Set Registry).

About a month ago, this dime quietly appeared on the Great Collections website with no fanfare. It was like a superb gem falling out of heaven. Several friends made note and informed me of the appearance as I don't frequent the GC website. The reserve was \$20,000, a substantial sum given that the PCGS Price Guide lists the coin at \$10,000. The CDN CAC guide was even lower at \$8120. Luck was on my side as the reserve price was at least double that of the guides for those who do not have a keen understanding of this dime's rarity. I was so surprised that those with substantial financial means greater than I did not make a play for the coin. My purchase price with the juice was \$25850. Frankly, I am pleased with the number as more than fair.

The motto to the story? Don't place 100% of your numismatic buying trust into "price guides". On many occasions, the price guides are wrong. Price guides are difficult to maintain with much linearization across grades. For rare dates in higher grades, auction records are limited or nonexistent. When true rarities come to market, there must be self confidence with one's knowledge and striking at the opportunity. This I did last week and could not be more pleased. This dime is a magnificent gem with quality well beyond any 1969-S dime I have seen, including my current PCGS MS66 that is the CoinFacts plate coin. I feel incredibly fortunate to be the new owner.

Questions for Fresh Blog Content?

I need your help!

As the spring and summer time move along, there will be a propensity to discuss happening at the homestead and exploration of the JD2025R.

The Daily Blog is primarily a numismatic publication and requires a balanced presentation of topics. Please help by submitting your questions concerning our wonderful numismatic hobby and I will do my best to response to those questions in the Blog.

Global Financial News

The NASDAQ saw a 2% drop on Tuesday while the DJIA and S&P 500 were essentially flat. Financial writers quickly blamed the NASDAQ drop on Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen who said, It may be that interest rates will have to rise somewhat to make sure our economy doesn't overheat". My other readings indicate that the culprit might be mainland China. It appears that there was a report that the People's Liberation Army aircrafts have started testing recognized Taiwan airspace. I'm certain that Xi Jin Ping would love to take control of Taiwan and its high tech semiconductor foundries (TSMC as one of the leading chip builders on the planet).

Morning market futures are showing an upbeat opening for U.S. equities at 9:30 AM.

In Asia, Japan closed. Hong Kong -0.4%. China closed. India +0.9%.

In Europe, at midday, London +1.1%. Paris +0.8%. Frankfurt +1.4%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.6%. S&P +0.4%. NASDAQ +0.3%.

WTI crude pricing continues to climb at \$66.44 per barrel. Paper gold is flat at \$1777/oz. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury bond yield has dropped to 1.60%

Wrapping Up The Blog

I'm way late with today's publishing time so let's get this edition uploaded.

However, I must make a plea for fresh consignments! GFRC demand continues to grow but will soon be throttled back by a lack of fresh offerings. Now is the time to sell duplicates or a major collection at strong prices. GFRC would enjoy working with a host of clients towards meeting their end goals.

Thank-you for stopping by at the Blog.

May 4, 2021

AuburnNY Accordion Collection - A Liberty Seated Dime Die Variety Buffet!

and

Love at First Sight - The John Deere 2025R

Greetings again from the Maine homestead and welcome to another day of Blog ramblings. It is fantastic to be "home".

Yes, the Florida winter escape or "snowbird" living makes life easier during the long and dark winter months. However, being "home" brings a feeling of mental well being. Sleep is better at the Maine homestead as is the fresh well drinking water. Composing the Daily Blog with a broad view of the front landscaping and wildlife is a joy as compared to living in a "cave" for five months.

The chipmunks are back! After wrapping up Monday's Blog, the chipmunks appeared in their usual hangouts on the stone walls. Already a deep hole is evident by the front steps. The 0.22 pistol is loaded with shell shot and ready for another spring of hunting down these rodents. As mentioned yesterday, the red squirrels are at the top of the extermination list as a preventative measure.

Once Monday's Blog was published, an inspection of the back trail down to the natural spring was next on the agenda. The trail needs much work as winter frost has a way of pushing rocks to the surface. Several trees has succumbed to an early winter ice storm and had fallen across the trail. There is ample work if realizing a vision of a smooth gravel walking trail.

Once arriving at the natural spring, a discovery was made. Since opening the spring last summer, the question of the water source was bothering me; no longer after Monday's visit. Two sources are positioned directly in the middle of the pool and were on full display with water bubbling from the ground. The sources had moved the brown silt and exposed grayish underlying soil that was swirling with the inflowing current. It was so cool to watch the incoming water. Now that the sources have been located, those areas will be dug deeper to hopefully increase water flow.

The balance of the morning brought the GFRC shipping department to life. Four shipments were made along with Doug the Mailman making an appearance with a pile of held mail. The carefully planned check mailing transition from Venice to Raymond worked like a charm. Today sees shipping volume increasing based on the arrival of many check payments.

The afternoon brought a visit to Hall Implement in Windham. We will touch upon that event later in the Blog.

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar Sale* is Well Subscribed

Bidding for the Newtown *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar Set Sale* continued on Monday at a noteworthy pace. As of today's Blog composition, 22 of the 52 lots have meet reserve including the gem 1871-CC PCGS EF40 CAC half. Newtown and I touched based on Monday afternoon and are pleased with the initial bidding. Now comes the quiet period before the auction reaches its natural crescendo that starts on Friday and culminates on Saturday at 9:00 PM.

So far, there are two multi-bid lots. Both are superb CAC approved AU58 specimens. The 1868 half has a low CAC overall population of 22 pieces with this offering being the only AU58 approved. There is a gap up to MS63 for the date which is incredible. This gorgeous example remains a bargain at the \$1500 bid price. My expectation is that we might see an assault on the \$2000 level before bidding is done. The 1877-CC is another AU58 example that is drawing early interest with four bids. There are only two CAC approved at the AU58 level with a gap to the MS62 level. The current \$801 bid remains well below the CDN CAC guides which is \$1020. This lot has a long way to go to fair market value that should be at the \$1300 level.

1868 WB-102 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C

1877-CC WB-13 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C



There are excellent Newtown offerings that continue to be missing bidding action. All are perfectly original examples that belong in advanced collections. On Monday, I flagged the 1840 and 1859 halves. Today, the 1849 and 1861-S dates are added to the display. In particular, please note the 1861-S half. There are 5 approved at the AU58 level with a population gap up to the MS64 level. The \$1350 reserve is MS60+ money per the CDN CAC guide and frankly cheap for the crusty original surfaces and the date's Civil War popularity.

1840 WB-5 PCGS EF45 CAC 50C

1849 WB-9 PCGS MS62 CAC 50C



1859 WB-102 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C

1861-S WB-1 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C



AuburnNY Accordion Collection - A Liberty Seated Dime Die Variety Buffet!

The AuburnNY Accordion consignor is back in a big way concerning today's Liberty Seated dime release. What a die variety "buffet" for those who are passionate about Top 100 and Ultimate die variety set collecting. We open with a stunning 1851 MS64 dime with incredible mint bloom and dripping luster. The 1875-S IW F-102a is the finest example seen for the variety and terminal die state. Yes, it is from the Eric P. Newman collection with old sulfur paper toning and CAC approval. This In Wreath variety is rare at gem level. Next is a super nice 1887-S F-107 with a shattered reverse. It has been a long time since GFRC has offered this die variety, especially so original with CAC approval.

Please check the 1838 F-103c with terminal die state reverse and beautiful toning. This piece has a perfectly original reverse though the obverse has been cleaned and retoned. Die cud lovers have several offerings to consider including the 1853 Arrows F-106b, 1876-CC F-115a, and 1878 T2 F-108a. There are two new terminal die state discoveries in this offering that will be added to the web-book; 1871 F-108a and 1878 T2 F-108a. How exciting to see that terminal die states continue to appear after nearly two decades since publishing *The Definitive Resource for Liberty Seated Dime Variety Collectors*.

Finally, the 1875-CC In Wreath F-110 was struck on a clipped planchet at 7:30. This error is designated on the PCGS holder.

Look for these offerings to post to the price list during the afternoon hours. Pricing has already been approved by the consignor.

AuburnNY Accordion Collection - A Liberty Seated Dime Die Variety Buffet!

1851 F-101 PCGS MS64 10C



1875-S IW F-102a PCGS MS65 CAC 10C**1887-S F-107 PCGS VF35 CAC 10C****1838 F-103c Raw MS60 10C****1839-O F-108 PCGS EF40 10C****1842-O F-103 NGC AU50 10C****1853 Arrows F-106b Raw AG03 10C****1871 F-108a Raw AU50 10C
PCGS EF45 10C****1875-CC IW F-110 Clip****1876 T1 F-102a PCGS AU58 CAC 10C****1876-CC F-115a Raw G06 10C
VF35 10C****1877 T2 F-105 PCGS**



1878 T2 F-108a Raw G04 10C

1887-S F-104a PCGS F15 CAC 10C



Introducing Gerry's New John Deere 2025R

Monday brought the long anticipated visit to Hall Implement in Windham. I arrived early for the 1:00 PM appointment, parked the car and took a quiet stroll through the yard in search of my tractor. Finally, the wait was over as I set sight on a beautiful green machine with backhoe and front loader. The kind folks at Hall Implement did a super job with the custom work that includes R3 radial tires filled with Rim Guard for 500 lbs of additional ballast, the clean installation of 3rd function hydraulics on the front loader, and the mechanical thumb on the 260B backhoe. It is difficult to describe that initial feeling upon inspecting this marvelous piece of compact engineering.

I proceeded into the store and introduced myself. "David" was assigned to provide the one hour training session. What a joy to climb up on the tractor and start-up the machine. We went through the maintenance items followed by David's special insights including where mice like to make winter storage nests. That insight was invaluable towards blocking those areas come late fall storage. We proceeded with training for removing and reinstalling the front bucket (incredible easy) along with removal of the rear backhoe. The latter will take some practice with proper positioning of the outriggers and the dipper/bucket to free up the two retaining pins which enables the lifting of the backhoe off of its carrier hooks.

Sitting in the backhoe operator station was a special thrill. The operating space is cramped for someone my size and takes careful attention to mounting and dismounting as my knees can easily strike the levers that operate the control valves. I did this in front of David and made a valuable mistake that will not be forgotten. One can easily crush an arm or leg if not paying attention when dismounting the operator station.

The backhoe operated with ease. In just a few minutes, I was able to simulate the digging motion with the bucket and dipper arm.

The JD2025R is due for delivery this afternoon if forecasted rains are limited to the morning hours.

Love at First Sight - The John Deere 2025R



Global Financial News

U.S equity markets enjoyed another strong showing on Monday with the DJIA and S&P 500 at or near record levels. Paper gold came within spitting distance of the \$1800 mark also during the day's trading. Morning market futures are pointing to a flat open at 9:30 AM

In Asia, Japan closed. Hong Kong +0.9%. China closed. India -1%.

In Europe, at midday, London +0.7%. Paris +0.5%. Frankfurt +0.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.1%. S&P -0.1%. NASDAQ -0.3%.

WTI crude oil prices continue to climb with a morning quote of \$65.59/bbl. Paper gold has pulled back to \$1783/oz along with Bitcoin at \$56,505. The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield is down slightly at 1.62%

Wrapping Up The Blog

Much has been shared in today edition. I hope that you've enjoyed the visit.

Please consider GFRC for your collection pruning and selling needs. We may not be the largest dealer in the U.S. market but we certainly work hard to win your loyalty and trust.

Thanks for stopping by on a Tuesday morning.

May 3, 2021

GFRC Maine Office is Open!

and

Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Opening Bidding is Robust

Greetings from the Maine homestead based GFRC office and welcome to the Blog. I'm thrilled to be be "home".

How wonderful it is to be sitting in the GFRC office overlooking the front landscaping and composing today Blog edition. A red squirrel is scampering about along early morning birds flying around our trees. There are no chipmunk sighting so far but already that red squirrel is on a short list for being eliminated. Red squirrels are nasty creatures and can cause substantial building damage.

As mentioned in prior Blog editions, Maine foliage blooms late. The flowering plums are showing newly formed crimson leaves and the forsythias are in full yellow bloom. Otherwise, the maples, oaks, and birches are just starting to bud. Overall, the landscape still appears quite barren but all with change in the next week.

The early morning temperatures is a comfortable 50F. Once the Blog is uploaded, you can bet that a walk to the natural spring will be next followed by unloading GFRC inventory and placement into the gun ammo safe.

The homestead weathered the winter months well with a limited number of broken branches and snowplowing damage.

Observations from a Two Day Road-trip

What a difference a year makes!

Last year's northern road-trip was at the height of the Covid-19 outbreak with New Jersey and New York hit hard. Major roadways were empty to my disbelief as we traveled along the NJ Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and along I-287 across the Hudson River.

I can report that the East coast economy is back with a vengeance based on this weekend's drive. Roadway congestion was commonplace. We start with Florida which continues to see a growing population due to favorable weather and taxes. The usually quiet Rt 301 in northern Florida was backed up with a host of tractor-trailers. The antiquated I-95 roadway through South Carolina brought its usual congestion until reaching the I-26 western turn-off to Columbia. That congestion started back in Georgia as the roadway shrinks from four lanes to two.

A massive construction project is underway in northeast Virginia to expand the I-95 Express lanes into Washington DC; a sign of a growing federal government.

I-95 in northern Maryland was very busy along with gaining access to the Delaware Chesapeake Bay Bridge was slow going on an early Sunday afternoon. I can only imagine what mid-summer traffic will be like. Driving I-295 and the NJ Turnpike was typical for a Sunday afternoon. The Oranges on the Garden State Parkway was back to normal with slow bumper-to-bumper traffic. Ditto for gaining access to I-287 in New York to cross the Hudson River. The new Gov. Mario Cuomo bridges are engineering marvels.

The usual crazy drivers were on the roadway. It appears that turning signals are no longer required for lane changes once reaching New Jersey and equally seen in New York and Connecticut. Since riding high in the Acura MDX, I had a reasonable view of who is doing what. Younger drivers were typically the ones with the least courteous behaviors. Of course, there were the fast lane straddlers. Some people were completely oblivious to drivers having to pass them on the right. The most egregious was a macho guy with a beautiful babe in a new Infinity sedan on I-684. He would not move over for miles as too busy impressing his girlfriend.

The Fortins arrived to the homestead at about 7:00 PM. Buddy the Dog was a fantastic travel mate. He rested for two days in his tiny backseat allocated space without making a sound.

GFRC Maine Office is Open!

Yes, the GFRC office is open. It should not take too long to unload inventory and have the morning shipping prepared.

Already, I have solidified a Thursday morning appointment to take transfer of a wonderful \$3 gold collection at a secret location in Windham.

GFRC has been busy doing new purchase deals. One deal was wrapped up while on the road on Saturday and brings another five U.S. gold offerings with nearly all CAC approved.

Obviously, GFRC is seeking a substantial collection consignment for the May/June time frame. The GFRC Online Auctions queue will be barren once the Newtown Collection sale closes on May 8.

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Newtown Collection's *Ultimate Liberty Seated Half Dollar* Sale Opening Bidding is Robust!

While I was driving, Diane was checking her phone and keeping me abreast of the initial Newtown Collection bidding. We are pleased to report that 16 of the 52 offered lots have initials bids. Most popular is the following 1877-CC AU58 half with three bids. I'm not surprised.

1877-CC WB-13 PCGS AU58 CAC 50C



A reminder that the gem original 1871-CC WB-1 PCGS EF40 CAC Seated half has not received a bid. This lot will certainly sell.

1871-CC WB-1 PCGS EF40 CAC 50C



For lower priced lots, the following two have my recommendation. Believe me, you will not be disappointed with either of these Newtown offerings at the reserve prices as premium examples.

1840 WB-5 PCGS EF45 CAC 50C

1859 WB-102 PCGS AU55 CAC 50C



Global Financial News

May equity market trading arrives with an upbeat year to date assessment courtesy of Seeking Alpha.

Enthusiasm for stocks couldn't be higher, with individual investors holding more equities than ever before, fueled by a blowout earnings season, the prospect of an economic recovery and extra savings like stimulus checks. Stockholdings among U.S. households even rose to 41% of their total financial assets in April, the highest level on record, according to data from JPMorgan and the Federal Reserve. That kind of optimism has led the S&P 500 to hit 25 records this year alone, while logging its third straight month of gains in April by adding more than 5% to the index.

Continued equity market gains are a positive for the numismatic market. Some gains will undoubtedly flow into hobbies including advanced coin collections.

U.S. equity markets are positioned for a positive opening at 9:30 AM.

In Asia, Japan closed. Hong Kong -1.4%. China closed. India -0.1%.

In Europe, at midday, London closed. Paris flat. Frankfurt +0.3%.

Futures at 6:20, Dow +0.6%. S&P +0.4%. NASDAQ +0.2%.

WTI crude is priced at \$63.30/bbl to start the month of May. Paper gold remains in a tight trading range at \$1778/ounce. Bitcoin is going momentum again with a \$58,640 price tag.

The 10 Year U.S. Treasury yield is flat at \$1.64%.

Wrapping Up The Blog

There is much to do today including the much anticipated appointment at Hall Implement at 1:00 PM to inspect the new JD2025. The weather forecast will cooperate for the event.

Please check back tomorrow morning for the first images of the new tractor.

Thank-you for returning back to the Daily Blog.

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